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Local Government Service

No. 3 MARCH, 1935 Vol. XVI

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

PROBLEM OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP

By DR. I. G. GIBBON, Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health*

DR. I. G. GIBBON

WHY should there be relations between central and local governments? This may seem a silly question with the facts all around us, but silly questions are sometimes necessary for sensible replies.

In the first place the State is the sovereign authority. Local authorities exercise only such powers as are permitted to them. This is universally true in modern countries. In the United States there are cities which enjoy what is called "home rule," and a very modest kind of home rule it sometimes is, something like that of the proverbial husband; and such "home rule" as prevails is granted by the State. In the old Germany, cities might be permitted to exercise any powers except such as were expressly reserved by State or Empire, but much was reserved, including "*politzei*" powers, which extended to such matters as building regulations as well as police, and there was also substantial administrative control. English writers have sometimes been deluded by form to the neglect of fact. American and German municipalities may well envy the freedom of our own.

Legislative and Administrative Control

Before leaving this subject of sovereign control, there are two aspects which merit notice. The control may be legislative or administrative (the latter usually depending in turn on legislation). In practice it is partly both, and countries differ chiefly in the degree in which they rely on the administrative. Britain, for example, relies on it largely; the United States, hitherto, very much less. The result is that the constitutions and laws of the several States are clustered with detailed restrictions, like chains, on the powers of local authorities, a common one being that they must not levy higher local taxes (rates) than a specified percentage of the taxable value.

Experience definitely favours administrative control, and it is growing even in the United States, and is likely to grow much more in that harassed country. Legislative control tends too much to provide the same suit of clothes for all authorities and cases, whether big or small, opulent or poor.

The other subject is delegated legislation. Guns, sometimes big ones, thunder from time to time at this "iniquity." With brilliant fancy its spread has occasionally even been attributed to the machinations of bureaucracy. Yet the practice continues and grows. It is inherent in government under modern conditions, with its ever-increasing demands and specialisation—and, indeed, unreasonably to check it might endanger democracy itself, paradoxical as this may seem.

Country Growing Smaller

There are modern conditions which must draw central and local governments more closely together. Three in particular may be mentioned—the great improvement of communications, which has contracted our little Island and made it easier to get from one end of England to another than a few generations ago from one side of a county to another; the swelling contributions of national money towards local services; the larger number of services which are of distinctly national as well as local importance.

A local authority lives much less to itself. The interests between neighbouring authorities, even between distant authorities, are much closer. The nation is becoming one in much higher degree. While the universe may be expanding, as astronomers would have us believe, countries are contracting.

So much is this so that a number of services have become centrally administered, the last instance being the appointment of the Unemployment Assistance Board. This tendency towards centralisation may continue unless arrangements can be made to secure not only necessary co-operation, and common action, between authorities with close common interests, but also means of reconciling local with national interests. Government institutions have to be adapted to current needs and conditions, or pay the penalty of wasting away. It is no use relying on the horse and buggy in the days of the motor car. At the same time efficiency cannot lightly let slip the virtues of local government, nor democracy safely abandon its training. That is one of the pressing problems before the present generation, which adjusts itself but slowly to the changed conditions. It is the spirit that counts, but the spirit must minister to current needs.

To meet these conditions a number of suggestions have been made from time to time. Some have suggested more national authorities. "National Boards" are a popular panacea just now in some quarters, and here and there this measure has been suggested, for instance, even for so local a service as that of water supply. Some have suggested a multiplication of joint authorities for special purposes, not only for the trading services, such as water, gas, electricity and transport, but also for education, for hospitals, for sewerage, and so on all through the services, so that the primary local government unit might become little more than an atom for combination into a series of "joint" compounds, each with its own appropriate area of service—a multitude of separate independent bodies which would cross and intercross with kaleidoscopic complexity.

Still others, applying, some might say, nineteenth century minds to twentieth century problems and forgetting how small a place modern communications have made this country of ours, suggest a new heptarchy, a number of regional authorities with wide powers. To pursue these and other suggested ways of salvation would take me far beyond the scope of my paper; I mention them so as to make the picture more complete, and also to make the point that none of these or other solutions are of themselves adequate, that the general national interest has still to be provided, adding this one caution—the more pat the remedy the more necessary closely to scrutinise it.

In the late years of the nineteenth century, when relations between central and local finance were already becoming acute, great play was made between local services which were "onerous" and those which were "beneficial." The provision of a sewerage system, for instance, was said to be of direct benfit to the locality, and, therefore, beneficial; the provision of education was not of direct benefit, at any rate not to the same immediate degree, and therefore was put down as onerous, and therefore, also, so was the conclusion, was a service for which liberal State assstance was justified.

Onerous and beneficial are soporific words; they seem so solvent of difficulties, and they do register a real distinction, but they do not open the gates of heaven. There are few services which are purely national, few purely local; it is all a question of degree, some have a larger, maybe a much larger, national or local import than others. Even sewerage is not a purely local service, as I have good reason to know when loud complaints of pollution come from distant places; and neglect is not purely local when it may cause an epidemic which may spread to other places.

Local and National Finance

Further, and more important, the relations of local and national finance have long passed beyond the bounds of onerous and beneficial. The range and cost of local services have grown beyond the means solely of local taxation, or of any fair form of local taxation which can be devised, and large contributions from national sources have become essential, since the State controls the principal sources of productive and expanding revenue, not from malice or greed or even need, but because of the nature of the

(*Continued on next page*)

*An address delivered to the Manchester and District Area Education Committee of N.A.L.G.O. and the Manchester Regional Branch of the Institute of Public Administration.

THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

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sources. This fact, however, does not introduce any difference of kind because even if local and national revenues were quite distinct, the State would still have to make sure that local authorities did not put their hands so deeply into the payers' pockets as to leave insufficient for national purposes, but it does introduce a big difference in degree, making the partnership of the State and local authorities much closer. A common purse is a strong common bond. He who pays can call the tune, and the strength of local government depends more than ever on the spirit of democracy.

Partnership of Local Authority and State

The word "partnership" provides the key to the situation. In this country, and in most other countries, national and local government have never been separate and distinct interests, each on a different side of the fence. The degree of their relations differs much in different countries and has differed much at different times. It was much closer, for example, in late Elizabethan and early Jacobean times than a century before or a century after. It has varied with communications, though not with that alone. State interference in local matters was more spasmodic in days when parts of the country were as difficult of access, even more in some respects, than Central Africa to-day. But participation of State in local government there always has been.

The spirit, however, has changed. It is broadly true that the relation of State to local authorities, when the State did intervene, was that of master and servant, even though the eighteenth century was in some respects the golden period of local independence, because it was in the hands of the class who also controlled the central government. That is still the legal relation; Parliament determines powers and Ministers give or refuse sanctions. But in practice local authorities are freely consulted on legislation affecting them, so much so, that they are coming to regard consultation as part of the unwritten constitution and Ministers and officials have little wish, even if they had the temerity, to play dictator. Reproof, even the whip, has to be used at times, but not unless the offence stinks, actually or metaphorically, in the nostrils of decent men.

Poor Law Administration

The administration of the poor law provides an instructive illustration of the progress in relations. The modern poor law, that of 1834, was born in travail. Local abuses, local failures to meet the economic stresses of the last part of the eighteenth century and the early decades of the nineteenth, stresses, let it be noted, probably more acute relatively even than those of to-day, at any rate in some places, had brought the country to the verge of ruin. The medicine for cure had to be strong. Very wide powers were given to the central authority over the new local bodies; indeed, it was touch and go at one time whether the whole administration should not be centralised, with local bodies as mere agents. Crisis is the seed time of a dictatorship. (It is interesting to note that the leading advocate of centralisation, Chadwick, later also became the principal protagonist of public health reform because he found that insanitary conditions bred indigence and had he not become so unpopular that branch of local government might also have become largely centralised under the influence of his impatient vigour.)

Gradually, as the years wore on, central control became less. Now that administration of the poor law has passed to County Councils and County Borough Councils, they press for still more freedom, even though poor relief presents special features.

Owing to the close relations between central and local authorities, and the many matters on which they come into contact, there has grown up an incidental advantage of great profit, much more than is enjoyed by any other country; indeed foreigners often cannot understand our intimate fellowship between central and local. Local authorities, for example, have to seek the sanction of the Minister of Health for loans for many different kinds of public works. Having to deal with applications of this kind up and down the country, the Ministry acquire, as a matter of course, a wealth of knowledge which cannot possibly be otherwise obtained. They can render no greater service to local authorities than to place this knowledge and experience at their disposal, and in this way they can and do make an invaluable contribution towards efficiency and, no less, towards economy of service. Knowledge and experience, I can assure you from an extensive experience, can save a very great deal of money, and a central pool of information and specialised ability is worth a big price.

This same service of a central pool of knowledge and experience, placed freely at the disposal of local authorities, runs through all the services of government departments in relation to local authorities, in byelaws, in methods of administration, in financial procedure and in other of the many spheres of local activity. It is not that government departments are staffed by supermen or that they are endowed with double virtue. It is just that they are placed at a centre into which the riches of information pour in upon them in the course of their daily work, information which can be supplemented by special inquiries. The source of their strength lies chiefly in their opportunity of picking the brains of local authorities and their officials and of learning from their tried experience. It would indeed be a poor lot of officials who, blessed with these opportunities, could not accumulate a fund of knowledge and experience of unrivalled service.

"Getting Information Across"

The future may show that there is much more that government departments can do in this way. In addition to advice on specific proposals, there may be a more systematic dissemination for the use of local authorities of the stores of information collected by government departments. There may be more returns on the lines of the costing returns for public cleansing and for hospitals and other institutions, returns which have already saved the country many thousands of pounds. It is possible also that more may be done in educating the general public, the general body of electors on which in the last resort everything depends. Despite official publications, and they are many, a visitor from Mars would perhaps still say that government departments were dumb, considering the vast stores of information and experience at their disposal. One problem is this, how "to get information across," how to ensure for it a lodging place in the minds of men, amid the flood of print with which the world is to-day deluged, a flood which rouses some sympathy even with him who burnt the library of Alexandria. And, too, there are the dangerous rocks of propaganda; but the nation that shirks action because of risks may find that it cannot ride the coming tides of man.

Minimum Standards

In a way the State has always been concerned to secure that local services are rendered at least with a minimum of efficiency, the particular local services differing with the opinions of different ages. In the old days, persons with a local duty risked the wrath of the King's Judges if they neglected it.

To-day the Statute Book contains many provisions empowering the appropriate Minister to take disciplinary measures if an authority is in default, enabling him in some cases even to supersede the authority altogether for the

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THE LATE MR. J. H. WHITLEY

The death of the Rt. Hon. J. H. Whitley is deeply regretted by the local government administration. As chairman of the Reconstruction Committee on Relations between Employers and Employed, from whose reports emerged that remarkable movement for the establishment of Joint Industrial Councils bearing his name, he rendered a singular public service. Whitleyism has not taken the same firm root in the local government service as it has done in other spheres, but the campaign for the establishment of a network of Whitley Councils in the service continues with undiminished enthusiasm, and no doubt in the course of time the ideal which Mr. Whitley entertained of conciliation and understanding in the settlement of difficulties will find an established place in the machinery of local government administration. Only a few months ago Mr. Whitley gave his blessing to the revival of the campaign by N.A.L.G.O. With his death local government administrators, both honorary and professional, have lost a very good friend.

BENEVOLENT AND ORPHAN FUND

"Nalgo House," Matlock—Travelling Expenses

It has been the practice to refund the amount of railway fare paid in excess of £1 to members recuperating after illness at "Nalgo House," in the following circumstances :—

(*a*) Members who are admitted through the Fund.

(*b*) Members who are admitted through the Provident Society, but who are also members of the Fund.

After considerable discussion by the Committe of Management of the Fund, it has been decided to make refunds of railway fares only in necessitous cases on the application of the Branch concerned and after confirmation by the Chairman of the Regional Committee.

(*Continued from column 2*)

particular function. These powers extend not only to duties of a special national significance, but even to those primarily of local necessity, such as water supply or sewerage. The powers are not frequently used (if they had to be local government would have failed) but they are of real service and proclaim the State's concern to secure at least a minimum of efficient service even for local needs.

The State, however, has gone further than this, especially in recent years. Many of the newer services undertaken by local authorities are of particular national, as well as of local, importance, and modern conditions have brought some of the old ones, such as main roads and police, into the same class. The State has, therefore, been minded, indeed compelled, to offer liberal grants as a bait for the more efficient rendering of these services (as well as because of the relative inelasticity of local rating).

It is with good reason that the system of percentage grants is comely to the eye of the reformer, because it directs a comforting stream of nourishment for his particular social pets. In recent years, however, the system has lost ground and been superseded by a block grant for some services. It tends to place too much power in the central department, to stifle local initiative and to upset proper allocation of money to local services. On the other hand, some would say that its retention is the only way of securing right partnership of State and local authority in some special services where the State has a special interest, and it is noteworthy that grants for education, police and roads are still wholly or largely on a percentage basis, and also the one way, some would declare, of stirring backward authorities into needed activity.

DR. GIBBON'S ADDRESS WILL BE CONCLUDED IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MODERN LIFE

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS SURVEYED : POINTS FROM CENTENARY ADDRESSES

IN connection with the centenary of Modern Local Government, Mr. J. R. Howard Roberts, Solicitor to the London County Council, delivered a lecture on "The Place of Local Government in Modern Life" at the Fulham Central Library, on February 7.

Although Local Government had received a great deal of criticism and gibes from the populace, he said, it did play a very important part in modern life—so important, indeed, that modern life could not go on without it. Progress in the administration of local services had been as startling and rapid as the increase in modern industry. The town dweller expected much more from his local services than the country dweller, because, in the very nature of things, an area which was urbanised necessitated far more in the way of what a local authority provided.

A Big Forward Move

The year 1835 was a landmark in the history of Local Government, not only because the Municipal Corporations Act was passed, but because, about this time, a big forward move was made. The tendency at first had been to set up special *ad hoc* bodies to deal with individual branches of Local Government, such as Health, Poor Relief, etc. Subsequently, however, the policy of Parliament had been to pile new duties on to the local authorities, but the work of such authorities had increased and expanded to such an extent that in recent years the pendulum had begun to swing the other way, and to some extent there had been a reversion to the original practice of setting up *ad hoc* bodies. An example of this was the newly formed "Unemployment Assistance Board."

Mr. Howard Roberts proceeded to give a rapid survey of the services rendered by the local authorities to the individual throughout his life—indeed, before his birth and after his death. Firstly, the expectant mother was cared for through clinics and maternity homes, subsequently being given help, advice and attention when the baby was born. During its first few years the child could be taken to nursery schools or classes for infants, later being admitted to school, where, in addition to education, it received from the local authority medical attention, sometimes even food and clothing, and special attention in cases of mental or physical deficiency.

Indispensable Services

Recreation grounds and parks, with supervision, were provided for the growing citizen, and when he became of suitable age, advanced technical education, libraries and baths were available for his convenience. When he wanted to marry, the local authority found the registrar and offices in which the ceremony could take place, and then a house, with water, gas and electricity, if required. His daily life was made easier by quick transport, suitable markets where he could buy food that he knew had been inspected and passed as fit for consumption, and parks and public buildings where he could find entertainment for his free hours. In old age, the local authority provided him with public assistance, or a suitable habitation if he was destitute, and on his death a Register to register the death and a cemetery in which the burial could take place.

Let them imagine the chaos there would be if, for instance, the local authority withdrew its system of drainage or refuse disposal. The Local Government service of this country was so efficient that they as citizens, ought to be very proud of it. The service was taken for granted, or ignored, simply because it worked so smoothly. He also pointed out the advantages of the elective system of Local Government, whereby, if the ratepayers were dissatisfied,

Mr. J. R. HOWARD ROBERTS

they had it in their own hands to remedy matters by electing new representatives.

Mr. Howard Roberts asked his listeners to consider what the tendency in Local Government was likely to be in the future. Might it not happen that the duties which fell upon the present constituted authorities would tend to decrease because they became too onerous, and that the setting up of special boards to deal with the various problems centrally would be necessary? He instanced the attempts that were already being made to get the water supply controlled by a central board, similar to that controlling the supply of electricity.

He suggested how desirable it would be if unemployment relief could be controlled so that the wealthier neighbourhoods would help to bear the burdens of the poorer areas. He reminded his listeners of the admirable system of Local Government they had, stating how appalled he was at the general apathy and lack of interest taken in the matter by the average citizen, and urged them all to take a more vital and active interest in it.

THE TOWN OF TO-DAY

VERY appropriately the first of the series of public lectures arranged by the London School of Economics in connection with the celebration of the municipal centenary was on the historical background and it was given by Mr. J. L. Hammond, D.Litt., a well-known authority on the subject. The series, ending with that by Professor H. Laski on "The Lessons of the Past Century," will be of absorbing interest to those engaged or interested in local government administration.

Dr. Hammond, having paid a tribute to the immense value of the contribution of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb to research and literature in connection with local government, observed that the vital importance of sane local government administration was, as they grew older, becoming recognised more and more with the result that, to-day, there was over every area a responsible local authority with powers and duties imposed by Parliament. Many movements had contributed to that. Controlling the various authorities was a central department, such as the Ministry of Health, the Board of Education, or the Ministry of Transport. The whole country was under some form of local government and the services were directed, controlled and aided by the central authority.

To assist the various services the grants, in 1929, amounted to £92 millions as against £166 millions from the rates. To-day the needs of the people, from almost every angle, were provided for, as there was some authority whose duty it was to attend to those needs; there was protection against destitution; there were school meals for the children, pensions for various reasons, regulation of wages, insurance against sickness and unemployment —all related to some local authority or national legislation. Nearly the whole of that system was the creation of the last century.

In the Eighteenth Century

Dealing with local government in the eighteenth century, Dr. Hammond described the graphic pictures given in the novels of Fielding and Richardson and how power, in England, had drifted to the Justices of the Peace. Created in the reign of Edward III to keep the peace in the counties, they gradually drew tremendous power to themselves and the Quarter Sessions became the governing power to 1888. Their place was like that of the Bishops in Gaul in the sixth century. The framework of local government in the eighteenth century, continued the speaker, was somewhat involved. There were between fifteen and sixteen thousand parishes, each a distinct unit of administration with its own obligations and its own officers; they were the vestries. But all the officers of those bodies held their appointments from the Justices of the Peace.

Another set of authorities were the incorporated towns, of which there were 240, large and small, from Liverpool and Leeds to Dunwich. Dunwich, he added, had been described as forty-two houses and half a church. Yet there were larger towns, such as Manchester, Sheffield, and Birmingham, which were not incorporated. Then there were Improvement Commissions provided for by legislation with the result that the government in some towns divided between vestries and different commissions, while in other towns, which he instanced, there was the vestry, an oligarchy that ruled the corporation and also different commissions. In 1832 Parliament was therefore faced with that chaos to be found in parish vestries, manor courts, improvement commissions and incorporated towns.

Dr. Hammond went on to refer to the changes in the treatment of these questions in France during the period under review and showed how the English method differed. In England the aim was not the creation of a definite system of local government but the removal of abuses of which the classes that were specially represented in the reformed Parliament were specially conscious; the country desired to extricate itself from the problems and difficulties inherited. With that end in view there were two very important Acts passed—the Poor Law Act of 1834 and the Municipal Corporations Act of 1835—to get some order out of the chaos and remove abuses; and they had been struggling through the century to build up a worthy system of local government from that beginning. Then they had the Nuisances Removal Act of 1848 and the Public Health Act in the same year. When the latter was introduced originally, in 1847, it encountered much opposition.

Out of 187 incorporated towns, at that time, there were only 29 whose town councils had power to drain, clean and pave their streets, and there were 62 in which no authority had such powers. Both those big Acts aimed at the removal of abuses rather than creation, but they gradually led up to a new, better system. In the country they built up from the Poor Law and in the towns by the Public Health Act, but that was then too much under the influence of the Poor Law. In Gladstone's Reform Government of 1868,

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PORTS OF CALL ON THE CENTENARY CRUISE

OSLO: A CITY WHERE THE ANCIENT BLENDS WITH THE MODERN

By OSCAR PEDERSEN

Oslo, Norway's capital, is the first of the ports of call on the cruise which N.A.L.G.O. is arranging for next August in connection with the celebration of the centenary of modern local government. The author of this article, describing the city, is a prominent Norwegian journalist.

OSLO is situated at the end of the Oslofjord in surroundings which slope smoothly upwards with forest-clad mountain ridges in the background. Nature has so contrived that the landscape offers excellent conditions for the laying out of a town. Faults of town-planning committed years ago, when the town grew with fantastic speed, have, however, created great difficulties for the rational utilisation of the land. Thus Oslo has had much the same difficulties to cope with as have had many English industrial towns.

The valley in which Oslo is situated is divided into two municipalities—Oslo and Aker. This has caused many difficulties from the point of view of development. The lack of a well-elaborated urban plan which necessarily must comprise both Oslo proper and large parts of Aker is partly due to this division of the urban area. At the moment, however, there is a well-developed plan for fusion of the two areas into a " Greater Oslo," and this plan will probably be realised in the near future.

Old Roads and New

One characteristic feature of the layout of Oslo is that the big arterial traffic roads are to be found where some of the old highways led into the town. These old roads are the chief basis of the new urban plan, which assumes a ring street embracing the town in some sort of a demi-circle marking at the same time the approximate division between high and low building. In less than a hundred years, Oslo has become the biggest city in the country, the largest growth taking place during the latter part of last century when the town became an industrial centre.

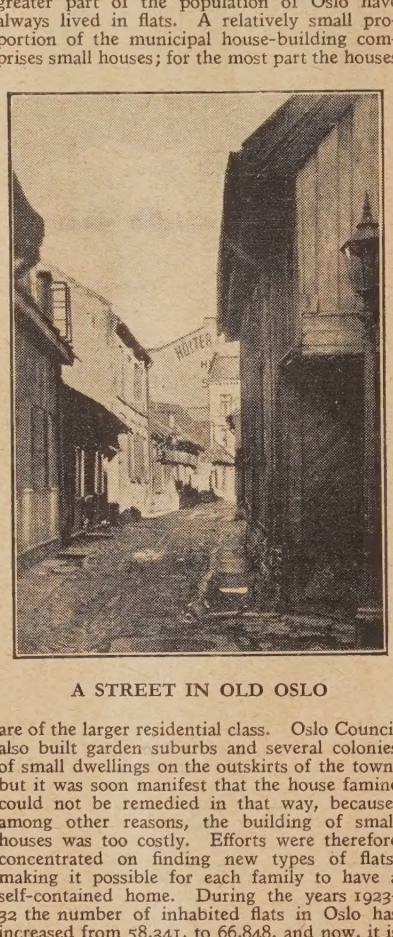
The last ten years have witnessed a rapid development,which has not, however, expressed itself in a corresponding increase in the population, but more in a sort of inner consolidation and in the utilisation of the rather scarce estate property of the town. As a matter of fact, a considerable part of the growth of the town has taken place in the neighbouring municipality, Aker. The character of a typical suburban municipality may be best illustrated by the fact that only about three to four per cent. of the population of Aker is living on agrarian work; the rest of the community depend upon urban employment.

It is in house building that the most remarkable development has taken place in Oslo during recent years. Between 1923 and 1932 houses were built to a total value of about 380 million kroners. In 1932 alone the value of new buildings was 58.7 millions. House-building continues to make great progress.

A House Famine

During the War all private house-building stopped, and the lack of housing accommodation, which had been felt at the outbreak of the War, increased enormously during the succeeding years. The municipality of Oslo started a housing campaign. In the first place, a stimulus was given to private building by offering guarantees for loans on the houses. Subsequently the municipality commenced building itself. Between 1912 and 1932 the council had built residential houses containing 5,900 flats for a total sum of 111,650,500 kroners. During the same period the municipality used 5.8 million kroners for so-called municipal house-building societies, which, for a total sum of 17.3 million kroners, built 1,362 flats. The Council also assists numerous private and co-operative building societies which, for a total sum of 128.2 million kroners, have built 6,312 flats. In the form of loans free of interest to such societies the municipality granted 23.2 million kroners.

Naturally, such extensive activity in housing has left its mark on the town. By far the greater part of the population of Oslo have always lived in flats. A relatively small proportion of the municipal house-building comprises small houses; for the most part the houses



A STREET IN OLD OSLO

are of the larger residential class. Oslo Council also built garden suburbs and several colonies of small dwellings on the outskirts of the town, but it was soon manifest that the house famine could not be remedied in that way, because, among other reasons, the building of small houses was too costly. Efforts were therefore concentrated on finding new types of flats, making it possible for each family to have a self-contained home. During the years 1923-32 the number of inhabited flats in Oslo has increased from 58,341, to 66,848, and now, it is estimated, only 1.5 per cent. of the population live in cottage residences.

Two Ages Side by Side

In Oslo one sees a happy blending of the old and the modern. Modern big business premises are situated alongside small old houses; " two ages side by side," it has been said.

It is a striking contrast to see the picturesque fronts side by side with products of the modern inclination for simplicity; modern buildings of eight, nine, and ten storeys cheek by jowl with the low houses of older times.

However, it is not only in the matter of private and municipal building of houses and numerous new business premises that the development of Norway's capital in recent years has been evident. Several public buildings have also been erected. Foremost among the buildings of that category should be mentioned the new Town Hall, which is to house the central administration of the municipality. This monumental fabric is the centre of a civic planning scheme, comprising the laying out of new streets and involving demolition of numerous old houses. Another public building of massive proportions, the public library—or the Deichmanske Bibliotek—has been erecte recently. The stock of the library has increase from 188,648 volumes in 1924 to 2,369,92 to-day.

Bathing Establishments

Oslo has constructed two new public ho water bathing establishments during rece years, and the town has now three big publ bathing establishments, all equipped wit up-to-date swimming pools. Besides these a several smaller bathing establishments, all which are owned by the municipality. Th municipal open-air bathing establishment which are partly supplied with fresh and part with salt water, are extensively patronised. In this connection it may be mentioned that th consumption of water from the municip supplies has increased considerably in the la few years, namely from 210 litres in 1923 308 litres in 1932 per inhabitant per day. Th reserve water supplies are sufficient to satisf a town of three to four million people. Th capital invested in the water supplies amoun to 18.5 million kroners.

Both the gas works and the power station a owned by the municipality. The consumptio of gas has decreased somewhat during rece years, whilst the consumption of electricity increasing. At present about 12.5 millio cubic metres of gas and half a million kilowat of electricity are used annually. The town ha 2,700 kilometres of electric cables. By far th greater part of the power is produced by th town's own water power plant.

The sewerage system of Oslo has been unde reconstruction for years. A joint subterranea tunnel for drainage, water, gas, and electricit etc., has been constructed, and one purificatio plant has been built, while a new station for th same purpose has been planned.

The City Council

The City Council conducts all the normal phase of municipal administration. There are twenty four elementary schools and twenty-fiv secondary schools. The Council controls th public relief offices, municipal old-age pension orphanages and holiday colonies for poo children, and hospitals (two establishments wit more than 2,000 beds each). The daily adminis tration is conducted by a burgomaster finances and six aldermen, each the head of department—one for technical matters, one fo schools and churches, one for hospitals an sanitation, one for relief, one for person matters, legacies, etc., and one for matte concerning the port. Each branch (wate supplies, parks, etc.) has as its chief officer specialist in the particular phase of administra tion.

The municipal Council (eighty-four members and a committee of the Council comprisin twenty-one members have the supreme directio of the municipality's affairs. The Council elected on the proportional representatio system. From January 1, 1935, the Labou party has an absolute majority on the Counci according to the latest elections held in th autumn of 1934.

A partner whist drive was held by th Peterborough District Branch on February when there was a record attendance of 18 The Mayor and Mayoress of Peterborou (Councillor and Mrs. A. H. Mellows) attende and presented the prizes, which were given b tradesmen in the city. The proceeds will b devoted to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund the Association.

Arising from a meeting of members of th staff of the Wadsley Mental Hospital a sub branch of the West Riding Mental Hospit Branch has been formed.

THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF NALGO

are eligible for the benefits of the

NALGO PROVIDENT SOCIETY

A substantial payment can be made during illness to cover Doctors' Bills and special expenses. Nearly £10,000 was paid to members for this purpose during 1934.

Monthly Contributions		Weekly Benefits		
s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1	0		7	0
2	0		14	0
3	0	1	1	0
4	0	1	8	0
5	0	1	15	0
6	0	2	2	0
7	0	2	9	0
8	0	2	16	0
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LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN MODERN LIFE

(*Continued from page 59*)

Goschen visualised and contemplated an ambitious scheme to improve local government, but he and his successor found that the proposals were too ambitious for the House of Commons at the time.

The Chief Changes

After outlining the legislation which had brought the whole country under popularly elected local authorities, Dr. Hammond observed that the chief changes since related to functions, powers and mutual relations of the various local authorities. Some authorities had disappeared; the school boards established in 1870 went in 1902, while the Poor Law Guardians, created in 1834, were made the sanitary authority in 1872, put on democratic franchise in 1894, and disappeared in 1929, becoming the Public Assistance Committees of County and County Borough Councils. There had also been tremendous extension of the powers of some authorities, notably in regard to housing and town planning. The Act brought in by John Burns in 1909 had been followed in rapid succession by almost a yearly series since 1919.

Another development they noticed was that a combination of authorities dealt with questions which were not merely local, such as water, electricity and transport. Joint action had enabled them to overcome a great many of the difficulties experienced earlier. And again, during the last thirteen years there had been a marked development in the combination of official and non-official effort, of public and private action, the State and voluntary powers. This combination was shown in the work of the Development Commission, the Road Board, Electricity Commission, Port of London Authority, Rural Community Councils, After-care Committees, and in a large number of other forms. Comparing this development with the Improvement Commissions of the eighteenth century, Dr. Hammond observed that the modern machinery dealt with different problems in a different spirit and abuses had been removed. A Commission of the eighteenth century was composed of 20 to 30 people, usually with property qualifications. In Manchester, for example, it was clear that the Commission was more concerned with the interests of the well-to-do than with those of the poor.

Continuing, Dr. Hammond said that in looking back a hundred years they would observe, over a period, a remarkable lack of political interest in measures concerned with local government. In 1847 and 1848, when the Public Health Bill was being debated month by month, none of the leading speakers made any speeches of importance and not one of the great speeches of the time, whether delivered by Palmerston, Cobden, Peel, Bright, Gladstone, or Disraeli, was on this vital subject. The Minister who introduced the Bills on which the health of London and Manchester depended was the Commissioner of Woods and Forests! In 1847 and 1848 the Annual Register gave 194 pages to Parliament but contained no mention of the long debates on public health!

Unimaginative View

When Stansfeld's Bill was introduced, *The Times* commented that the House of Commons presented an appearance which might have been expected if the subject under discussion "had been a Turnpike Bill and not a measure involving the health and happiness, the moral and material prosperity of the nation. A mere handful of members were thinly scattered over the ministerial benches while the opposition side of the House looked still more deserted and forlorn." The poor and unimaginative view of local government found among the politicians at the time was extraordinary. What if the energy given to the repeal of the Corn Laws had been thrown into local government reform?

Proceeding, Dr. Hammond observed that in the 'forties people began to think seriously and there began the struggle for parks and libraries. The state of affairs was deplorable for they could find an industrial town of thousands of people with only one public park. Conditions were so bad in some places that Faucher remarked that they seemed to be a "thousand leagues from the civilised world." In 1850 it was necessary to get the sanction of Parliament to build a public library. Parliament was then theatrical and the great politicians occupied the stage. Happily there had been a change; they had the influence of the thinkers and philanthropists, Perceval, Currie, Duncan, Simon, Bentham, Chadwick, Hume, Mill, Toynbee, and Ashley, the Chamberlain-Dilke movement in the 'seventies, and then the educating Fabian movement in the 'eighties. The problems were now tackled on a vaster scale: there were new resources, they had better amenities, and there were new impulses in local government which augured well for the future if the problems were still pursued with zeal and energy.

"THE MAKINSON BEQUEST" TO B. & O. FUND

We regret that the information contained in the paragraph headed "The 'Makinson Bequest'" at page 50 of the February issue was incorrect. Mr. Makinson has not retired from the Local Government Service, but from the office of president of the Preston Branch. Mr. Makinson made a donation to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund, and he wishes this to be known as the "John W. Makinson Trust." At the annual meeting of the Preston and District Branch, the Town Clerk (Mr. H. E. Nutter) who was elected president, made a presentation of a silver tea service and tray to Mr. Makinson, who has been president of the branch for the past ten years. The presentation was made as a mark of appreciation of Mr. Makinson's untiring devotion to the branch since its formation in 1906, and his invaluable services as president. Mr. Makinson has been a member of the General Comimttee of the branch since 1906; in 1918 he was vice-chairman, and for five years from 1919 he held the office of chairman.

ENGLISH: 1935 BRAND

The Borough Surveyor of a certain town has received from a groundsman on the local golf-course, a letter which says: "Now I am back to work under your service on the golf course as a groundsman, would you kindly excuse me in applying to you for a regular vacancy on this golf course. I also thank you very much for being employed by the corporation after my fatal accident, which I am much better now thank you."

Bath Nalgo Players produced their third play —*Tons of Money*—at the Pump Room, Bath, for three evenings, and the cast was representative of practically every department of the corporation. The Mayor and Mayoress attended and were well supported by members of the council and chief officials.

The Sheffield Transport Dramatic Society will present *The Roundabout*, by J. B. Priestley, on March 29 and 30, at the Sheffield Central Library Lecture Hall. Tickets 1s. 3d. and 1s. 9d., are obtainable from the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. W. Whitaker, Transport Department

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

South-Eastern

THE annual meeting of the South-Eastern District Committee was held at 24 Abingdon Street, when Mr. A. Webb, F.L.A., of Brighton, presided over a well-attended committee.

At the outset the Chairman referred to the bereavements suffered by Mr. E. W. B. Abbott and Mr. H. F. Veness through the loss of Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Veness. The members stood in silence for one minute as a token of their sympathy and respect.

During the consideration of the Report of the Sports Sub-Committee it was reported that the retiring Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. F. Veness (Hastings) had very generously presented a handsome silver cup for competition in one of the sports sections. Mr. Veness was very warmly thanked for this.

The annual report showed a marked increase in the activities of the District and an increase in membership of nearly 370.

The following officers were elected: Chairman, Mr. Arthur Webb (Brighton); Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. H. Routly (Folkestone); Hon. Secretary, Mr. F. A. Bristow (Reigate); Hon. Treasurer, Mr. H. J. Altoun (Hastings); Hon. Sports Secretary, Mr. W. A. N. Baker (Maidstone); Hon. Secretary, Nalgo Motoring Club, Mr. H. Morgan (Broadstairs); Hon. Auditors, Mr. H. Sears (Brighton), Mr. W. H. Baker (Hove).

Mr. F. A. Bristow was appointed Presiding Officer for the N.E.C. election with power to select the scrutineers. The members of the Executive Committee were re-elected. Mr. Webb reported upon the proceedings of the N.E.C., and numerous questions followed, particularly in connection with the proposed Amending Bill for Compulsory Superannuation. Mr. Webb, as chairman of the B. and O. Regional Committee, also reported upon the good work being done in deserving cases, and asked for increased support for the Fund.

It was agreed that the N.E.C. should be asked to make arrangements for the use of Messrs. W. H. Smith & Sons' Libraries similar to those in operation with Messrs. Boots Libraries.

Yorkshire

About 130 representatives attended the annual meeting of the Yorkshire District Committee, held at the Town Hall, Sheffield.

It was reported that membership of the Association during the past ten years had more than doubled. In the Yorkshire District at the end of last year the membership figure stood at 9,002—an increase of 671 on the preceding year. When the membership figures for the current year are available there is no doubt but that a further considerable increase will have taken place.

During the year four new branches have been formed in the Yorkshire area, namely, Pudsey Borough, Ripon City, River Ouse Catchment Board and Thorne Rural District. The total number of branches in the area now stands at 56.

Out of a total number of 220 Authorities in Yorkshire, 137 made no reductions of salaries whatever; out of the 83 Authorities who made reductions, 81 have reverted to normal salaries; one has amended the "cuts" in the officers' favour, leaving only one very small Authority still operating the original reductions.

With regard to superannuation, the number of Authorities which have adopted the Act in Yorkshire is: West Riding, 101; East Riding, 11; North Riding, 5; total 117.

The District Committee were reminded of the steps which had been taken by the Executive Committee during the past year for the furtherance of the principles of "Whitleyism." Batley Town Council have established a Local Joint Conciliation Committee.

An exhaustive report was given of the important work which has been carried out by the West Riding Joint Council in view of the decision of the Government to stabilise the remuneration of civil servants on the basis of a cost-of-living figure of 52½ as from July 1, 1934, with an undertaking that at some future date the basis would be increased to 55. The question of the Scales of Salaries issued by the Joint Council has been reopened with the employers' side, and negotiations are proceeding.

An important item in the report was the reference to the Review of County Districts. It was pointed out that the review in the North Riding has been effected, that the Minister has approved the proposals of the East Riding C.C. with certain minor exceptions, but that the proposals of the West Riding C.C. have not yet been forwarded to the Ministry of Health. In the latter case, it was pointed out that officers who are affected will be guaranteed the full support of the Association and the provision of any legal advice that may be necessary in drafting appeals and submitting them to the Ministry.

An interesting statement showing the income and expenditure of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund was considered, and it was reported that the sum of 75 guineas annually for the past three years had been forwarded to various hospitals within the area of the District Committee.

The Hon. Treasurer, in presenting his accounts, indicated a surplus of £19 3s., as against £18 4s. for the previous year. He drew attention to the donation of the District Committee amounting to the sum of £27 6s. 8d. to the Memorial Fund promoted to commemorate the late Mr. F. Marsden, who, at the time of his death, was chairman of the District Committee and President of the Association. It was mentioned that in May last a cot at the Bradford Children's Hospital had been endowed in memory of Mr. Marsden.

The officers for the ensuing year were appointed as follows: Chairman, Mr. W. W. Armitage, Sheffield; Vice-Chairman, Mr. R. Wildgoose, Leeds; Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. G. Bolton, Harrogate; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. Nolan, Leeds; Hon. Auditors, Mr. W. C. Wood and Mr. L. M. Crow, Leeds.

The Executive Committee were appointed as follows: Messrs. H. Allen, West Riding; W. Dransfield, Huddersfield; J. W. Horwill, Bradford; E. Hanson, Keighley; S. E. Grimshaw, Pontefract; C. Bishop, Bolton-on-Dearne; W. Donnan, West Riding Superannuation Joint Committee; I. L. Lonsdale, West Riding; R. Doidge, Leeds; H. A. Willis, Huddersfield.

At the conclusion of the meeting the members were invited to tea in the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor of Sheffield (Alderman Percival J. M. Turner).

Mr. W. W. Armitage cordially thanked the Lord Mayor for his generous hospitality.

East Midland

The annual meeting of the East Midland District Committee was held in the Council House, Nottingham, on January 26. The meeting was preceded by a luncheon which was attended by Dr. A. Wotherspoon, President of the National Association, and the Lord Mayor of Nottingham (Councillor R. E. Ashworth). In a brief address, Dr. Wotherspoon thanked the East Midland Officers for the support they were giving to the Association, and referred to the steps being taken to celebrate the centenary of Local Government. Dr. Wotherspoon was cordially thanked for his address.

Before lunch, a meeting of the Chairman and hon. secretaries of branches had been held regarding membership in the district. It was reported that the paid-up membership in the East Midlands in 1934 was 4,873, as compared with 4,350 in 1933, and 2,128 ten years ago. The meeting agreed that while the large majority of local government officers of all ranks were members, there were still a substantial number of officers, who were enjoying advantages secured by the Association, who were non-members, and that spec efforts should be made to persuade the officers to join the Association.

The meeting of the District Committee w presided over by Mr. E. J. Loasby, Secreta for Education, Kettering, and there was large attendance of representatives. Mr. Loas referred to the deaths of two Nottingha Officers who had been very prominent in t District Committee (Mr. E. C. Crofts a Mr. A. Rhodes). Mr. Crofts was chairm of the Committee in 1913-14, and 1921-23 a 1922-23, and from 1924 to 1927 represented t District upon the National Executive Counc and Mr. Rhodes was elected hon. secreta when the District Committee was formed 1910, and held that office until 1919. A vote condolence to the relatives of the two office was passed.

The annual report was approved. Th recorded a steady increase in membershi It was mentioned that 63 local authorities ma reductions in salaries in 1931 in consequen of Ministry of Health Circular, 1222, and th 102 made no reductions. The reductions h all been terminated, with the exception of t Leicestershire County Council reduction, whi had been halved, and it was understood wou end on March 31, 1935. As to superannuatio ten authorities had adopted the Act during t year.

The Committee elected the following office for the ensuing year: President, Mr. B. W. Bulkeley, Director of Education, Notts Coun Council; Vice-Presidents, Mr. Lucas Rumsey, Clerk to the Leicestershire Coun Council, Captain J. W. Newham, Sup Relieving Officer, Nottingham, and Mr. E. Loasby, Secretary for Education, Ketterin Chairman, Mr. G. H. Parkin, Hucknal Vice-Chairman, Mr. F. B. Matthews, Publ Assistance Officer, Lindsey County Counci The Committee unanimously passed a vote thanks to the retiring President, Mr. E. V Scorer, Clerk to the Lindsey County Counc and to the other retiring officers for the services.

After the meeting the representatives we entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor Nottingham, who presided, supported by t Sheriff of Nottingham. The Lord Mayor sa that in his experience Whitley Councils we valuable alike to employer and employed, a he strongly recommended them. He regrett that every Authority had not adopted supe annuation. Their objective should be to secu superannuation for all.

North-Eastern

A well-attended meeting of the Nort Eastern District Committee was held at t Town Hall, Newcastle.

The officers of the District were appointe as follows: Chairman, Mr. R. E. Hero Sunderland; Vice-Chairmen, Mr. F. Bingha Middlesbrough, Dr. J. B. Williamson, Tyn mouth; Hon. Secretary, Mr. V. Grainge Newcastle; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. T. H Williamson, Easington; Hon. Auditors, Mess Thompson, Middlesbrough and Calvert, Wall end; Hon. Solicitor, Mr. J. W. Porter, Tow Clerk, Gateshead.

Messrs. Heron and Williamson were a pointed to represent the District Committ at the Annual Conference to be held at Chelte ham during Whitsuntide, 1935.

The fourteenth annual report showed th membership figures during the past five ye had practically been doubled. Two n branches were formed during the year, name Redcar and Washington. As from November 1934, a new Branch, to be known as t Boldon Branch, and consisting of the membe of the South Shields R.D.C., was register Out of a total of 93 local authorities in t counties of Northumberland, Durham, a the Cleveland District of Yorkshire, only t were still operating "economy reductions."

Special attention was drawn to the newsc

of graded holidays recently adopted by the Sunderland Corporation, as follows :—

Chief Officers, 24 working days; *Officers receiving £300 per annum or over, 18 working days; Officers with 20 years' service or over, 18 working days; Officers with 15 years' service or over, 15 working days; Officers with under 15 years' service, 12 working days; Officers with under 1 year's service, up to 12 working days at discretion of Chief Officer.

(* Excluding any allowance made upon passing the final examination of the recognised examining bodies of the Local Government Service or other Professional Institutions.)

The Newcastle and Sunderland Corporations are seeking authority in General Powers Bills to provide annuities for widows upon the death of an officer who has retired on superannuation. The proposed clauses are similar to those contained in the Manchester Corporation Act, 1934.

A total of 55 authorities in the area have adopted the Superannuation Act of 1922. The staffs of two County Boroughs—Middlesbrough and West Hartlepool—and five Boroughs—Durham, Jarrow, Stockton, Blyth and Morpeth—are unfortunately not provided for in that respect.

A report was made on the proposed establishment of a Provincial Whitley Council for the area, and it was mentioned that there is an overwhelming majority in favour of a Council being set up at the earliest convenient date. It was agreed to submit the information obtained to the National Executive Council, and that the Executive Committee of the District be authorised to consider such steps as may be expedient to establish a Provincial Council within the area.

The report of the Divisional Secretary referred to difficulties which have arisen in respect of a number of officers at Felling, and also in connection with an attack which has been made on a Relieving Officer at Gateshead by a local newspaper.

Dr. J. B. Williamson, Mr. Vince, and Mr. Grainger gave interesting reports of the proceedings of the last meeting of the National Executive Council.

At the close of the business the representatives were entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor of Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. R. S. Dalgliesh, J.P. The Sheriff, Councillor Gilbert Oliver, J.P., was also present, and supported the Lord Mayor in extending a welcome to the delegates and in expressing appreciation of the work of the Association.

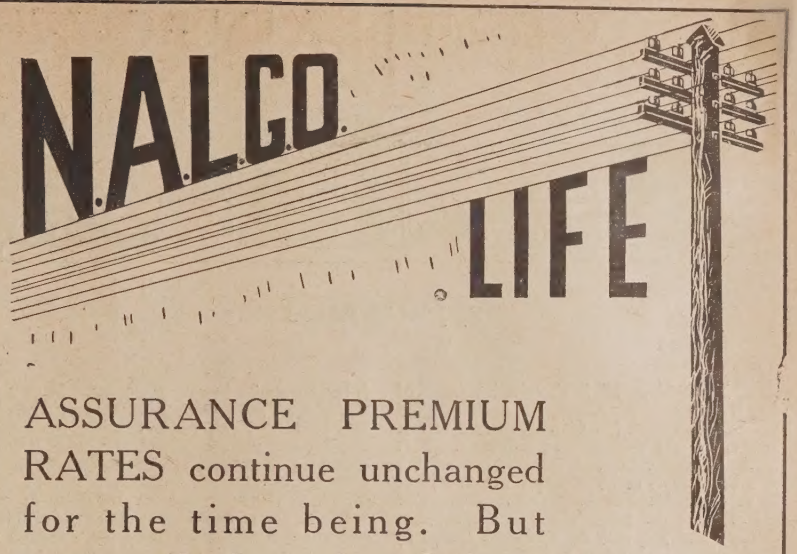
Mr. Heron responded.

West Midland

The annual meeting of the West Midland District Committee was held at the Town Hall, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent, on January 19. The President of the District Committee (Mr. F. H. Harrod, M.C., Director of Education, Coventry) presided.

The annual report mentioned that the past year had a better record, from the service point of view, than any of its recent predecessors. There were only five authorities in the West Midlands whose staffs were still suffering an economy cut: even in those cases some had modified the scale of deductions in favour of the staff, and had promised to restore the full salaries during 1935. There could be no doubt that this relatively favourable position was a direct result of the wise handling of the economy question by the Association as a whole. In the past ten years the membership in the District had increased from 1,664 to 4,495.

The Committee elected Mr. G. A. Stone, Local Taxation Officer of Worcestershire, as President for the ensuing year; Vice-Presidents, Mr. A. G. Aldridge, Public Assistance Officer, Wolverhampton, Mr. F. Gee, Borough Treasurer, Shrewsbury, and Miss L. H. Wooldridge, Inspector of Midwives and Health Visitors, Staffordshire County Council; and Chairman, Mr. F. H. Harrod, M.C., Director of Education, Coventry.



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NOTES FOR READERS

By JONAS PRAPS

"EXPERIENCE" is the third volume of Desmond MacCarthy's essays published by Putnam (7s. 6d.). The essay is, of course, for the dilettante in literature. This particular collection has no connecting link save the author, and you may flit from subject to subject with him very delightfully. The charm is in the texture, not in the subject-matter; and you may read of such things as Snobbishness, Ugliness, Epitaph-writing, and The Peerage down (or up) to the Two Minutes' Silence.

Agate Burnishings

It is nearly impossible to turn to any one of the 388 pages of "Ego," James Agate's reminiscences (Hamilton, 18s.) without finding something of interest. Its charm is largely in its matter-of-fact manner. True, it is in chronological order or thereabouts, and starts with his early career in Lancashire; but the author frequently breaks away from his narrative to tell some delightful story or relate some incident he has just recollected. The book is full of good stories and delightful gibes at people he meets, but does not like. There are many letters from well-known people, and one might fill many columns with his quips and cranks; the letter from someone at "that God-wotty place, Broadway," his state of indebtedness even at Giggleswick School where his desk is full of "statements of J.A.'s affairs," the description of an effigy's pose as "lolling," and so on. To keen playgoers not the least interesting part of the book is the criticisms of modern plays.

The history of *The Times* is very largely the history of England, and in "The Thunderer in the Making," Vol. I, the story of the famous newspaper from its commencement one hundred and fifty years ago down to the year 1841 is unfolded. The book is published by *The Times* at 15s., and is excellently produced. It is not only of historical value from the country's point of view, but it reflects the progress of the newspaper press and its influence upon the nation's affairs.

Mr. Harold Baldwin in "A Farm for Two Pounds: Being the Odyssey of an Emigrant" (Murray, 7s. 6d.) relates his personal experiences as farmhand, lumberman, etc., first in Ontario and later in Hamilton, Toronto, and elsewhere west, also of his fight for his own farm. The incidents are related with humour and insight—the insight which only personal experience could give. The period is some twenty-five years ago.

Partly complementary to the foregoing and also by way of contrast, read "Backwoods America," by Charles M. Wilson (University of North Carolina Press, 2.50). The book is beautifully illustrated, and gives a picture of the peasants in the backwoods of America at work and at play. Essence of Rural Humour, In Serious Mood, Backwoods Language, The Country Storekeeper, and The Country Doctor are some of the chapter headings. The book is rather unique.

A Fine Character

"Full Flavour" is not only the title of Doris Leslie's new novel (Bodley Head, 8s. 6d.), but it represents its literary fragrance. It may be classed with the now numerous family histories told in novel form, but it is much more than that; it is a perfect picture of a woman from childhood to old age, the period covered being 1848–1914. Catherine Ducrox, despite the suppression meted out to children in the Victorian era, shows signs at the age of eighteen of the spirit which animated the militants of later days and flaunts the proprieties by helping her father in his cigar shop. She builds up the declining business and conducts it on the death of her father. Her first marriage ends in the disaster which seems inherent in the family, and her life down to her later years is a conflict between business and home. It is impossible in a very brief review to give adequate appreciation of one of the most delightful characters in recent fiction. The numerous other characters all bound up with Catherine are likewise drawn to the life. The books ends with her grandson, rather cheated of love, deciding to go to the War, saying good-night to her: "He would tell her in the morning. Let her sleep . . ." It is to be hoped the author will not mar this perfect picture by writing a sequel.

Those who acted upon my recommendation by reading "Claws of Africa" will not need pressing to read "Africa Calling," by Roger Courtney (Harrap, 7s. 6d.). Formerly a bank clerk, the author has made several hunting expeditions into the heart of Africa. Here he tells of his more general experiences in Kenya, Uganda, and the Belgian Congo. They are such that one can hardly imagine him settling down once again to bank life.

HOUSING ADMINISTRATION

"Housing Administration," by Stewart Swift (Butterworth & Co.; Shaw & Sons, Ltd.) will fill a long-standing gap in the library of the local government officer who is concerned with the practice of housing. There have been a number of excellent works dealing with the legal aspect of housing, but this is the first work which has been designed primarily to assist public health officials and other local government officers whose work deals with the practical administration of the Housing Acts. As its title connotes, this work is essentially a practical one and provides detailed instructions and examples as to the data which have to be collated and the manner in which they should be presented. The topics dealt with include housing inspections and the standard of fitness for habitation, clearance and improvement areas, individual unfit houses, whether capable of repair or not, rural housing, pests in relation to housing, together with a useful chapter on the keeping of housing records and registers. The public health officer should find this work of invaluable assistance to him. Although intended primarily for his benefit, the book could be studied with advantage by owners of property and estate agents, and all other persons whose work touches on housing administration.—E. M. P.

TAX SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD

In the "Tax Systems of the World (Commerce Clearing House, Inc., 205, W. Monroe Street, Chicago, Ill.), the Tax Research Foundation has undertaken and brought to a successful conclusion one of the biggest tasks which it is possible to conceive. In only 282 pages there is "at-a-glance" information on the tax systems of the individual states of America, comparative tax tables of the forty-eight states, tax charts for twenty-seven countries other than the United States, comparative tax tables of various countries, and tax revenues of the world. The information contained in this volume shows the position at January 1, 1934. Mr. Mayne S. Howard, the editor, in the foreword, says that "this book . . . is aimed to be, first, an annual encyclopaedia; second, a manual; third, a textbook; fourth, a sourcebook; and so, it is hoped, a whole library on taxation." It is!

D. J. P.

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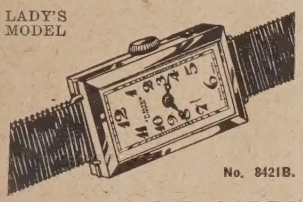

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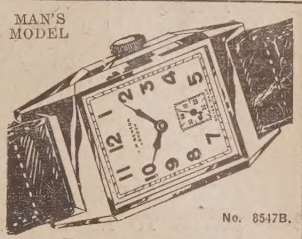

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WESTMINSTER, S.W.1.

ALL HEADQUARTERS COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the General Secretary and endorsed with the appropriate subject, e.g., "Legal," "Insurance," "Finance," "Organisation," "Education," or "Special Activities."
Telephone: Victoria 8592 (6 lines).
Telegrams: Natassoc, Parl, London.

CHELTENHAM CONFERENCE

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 15.—Nominees for Election of N.E.C. may withdraw up to 5 p.m. on this date.
April 1.—Journal will contain Conference Agenda.
April 1.—Report of the N.E.C. to be issued to representatives with Agenda.
April 15.—Amendments to motions in Conference Agenda to be received at Headquarters by 5 p.m.
April 15.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of Branch Secretaries.
April 23.—Voting Papers for N.E.C. to be in hands of members.
May 1.—Voting Papers to be in hands of Secretary of District Committee.
May 1.—Journal will contain amendments to motions in Conference Agenda.
May 2.—Counting of votes for N.E.C. commences in each district.
May 25.—Conference Agenda (containing motions and amendments thereto) and list of representatives to be forwarded to representatives.
May 25.—Branches desiring to divide voting strength at Conference to notify Headquarters of allocation.
June 8.—Whit Saturday. First day of Conference Proceedings.
June 10.—Whit Monday (Bank Holiday). Second day of Conference Proceedings.

IMPORTANT DATES

March 1 and 2.—Meetings of Committees of the N.E.C.
March 16.—Meeting of National Executive Council.
March 23.—Re-union of Holiday campers and Canary Islands cruisers in Manchester.
March 25.—Renewal premiums due on N.A.L.G.O. Household Insurance Comprehensive Bonus Policies.
March 30.—Holiday Centres at Croyde Bay and Cayton Bay open for the season.
April 1.—Last day for applying for admission to the N.A.L.G.O. Examinations in May.

N.A.L.G.O. MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Association at January 31, 1935, as ascertained for the purposes of allocation of representation to the respective Districts on the National Executive Council, was 79,798, an increase of 5,179, as compared with the corresponding date in 1934.

BRANCH TREASURERS PLEASE NOTE

Remittance of all moneys due to the Association, if not sent on February 28, according to rule, should be made to Headquarters forthwith.

HEADQUARTERS AND BRANCHES

The following circulars have been issued to branch officers from headquarters :—

JANUARY 23.

Circular No. 6/*Centenary*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Containing information relating to the local government centenary.

Circular No. 7/*Conf.*/1935.
(To secretaries of district committees, branches and sectional and professional societies.)
(*a*) Enclosing copies of the form C.1 on which to notify the names and addresses of representatives to conference.
(*b*) Giving particulars regarding grants to branches in connection with the conference.
(*c*) Giving dates of dispatch from headquarters of communications in connection with the conference.

Circular No. 8/*Gen.*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
Enclosing copies of a form on which to record changes in membership between October 31, 1934 and January 31, 1935, and containing information with regard to the membership register.

Circular No. 9/*Gen.*/1935.
(To secretaries of district committees, branches and sectional and professional societies.)
(*a*) Containing information relating to national minimum scales of salaries and grading and conditions of service for institutional and nursing staffs.
(*b*) Enclosing a copy of a pamphlet which contains particulars of these scales and conditions of service, and stating that further copies may be obtained from headquarters.

Circular No. 10/*Gen.*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) Enclosing a copy of the index to volume XV of LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE.
(*b*) With regard to correspondence with headquarters.
(*c*) With regard to the movement of members from one authority to another.

JANUARY 24.

Circular No. 11/*Re-union*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) Enclosing particulars of the Association's re-unions in London and Manchester in connection with the Holiday Centres.

FEBRUARY 4.

Circular No. 12/1935.
(To local correspondents of Logomia.)
(*a*) Regarding new Life Assurances and Fire and Householder's Comprehensive Insurance obtained during the year ended December 31, 1934.
(*b*) Containing information relating to a new Life Assurance prospectus.

FEBRUARY 6.

Circular No. 13/*Con.*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) Enclosing copies of form EL.1, for nominations for the election of the National Executive Council, 1935-6.
(*b*) Containing directions for voting in the election above mentioned.
(*c*) Enclosing a copy of the list of hotels and boarding houses at Cheltenham for the use of branch delegates.

FEBRUARY 7.

Circular No. 14/*B.S.*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) Regarding applications for advances on mortgage from the Nalgo Building Society and enclosing specimen application form for such advance.
(*b*) Enclosing a small supply of leaflets advertising the society for distribution.

FEBRUARY 6.

Circular No. 15/*Gen.*/1935.
(To branch secretaries.)
(*a*) With regard to Benevolent and Orphan Fund collecting boxes.
(b) Enclosing a supply of whist scoring cards and suggesting whist drives in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

SALARIES AND SERVICE CONDITIONS

Salary Deductions

The Radnor County Council and the Cardiff City Council have decided to restore full salaries as from February 1, 1935.

Superannuation

Schemes have recently been adopted by the Brecknockshire County Council and the Long Eaton Urban District Council. The Brecknockshire Scheme includes 77 officers, and the appointed day is April 1, 1935. The Long Eaton scheme includes 154 officers and servants, and the appointed day is April 1, 1935.

West Hartlepool Town Council have had under consideration the question of the adoption of the Local Government and Other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922, and after a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the Borough Treasurer be instructed to prepare a modified scheme to embrace all employees of the Corporation. The attitude of the Council generally did not appear to be unsympathetic, and it is hoped that when the modified scheme is presented, superannuation in West Hartlepool will become an accomplished fact.

Mr. J. H. Hampson, district secretary of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, and Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, appeared before the Leek Urban District Council as a joint deputation on February 7, in support of an application to adopt the 1922 Superannuation Act. They were sympathetically received.

Salaries and Grading

For some months the divisional secretary has been in negotiation with the Llantrisant Rural District Council regarding the adoption of a salaries and grading scheme.

At a meeting of the Council on January 31, an agreement was reached which would give general satisfaction to the whole staff.

Dismissals

The divisional secretary, accompanied by Mr. V. Grainger, honorary secretary of the North Eastern District Committee, attended before a meeting of the Felling Finance Committee to protest against the decision of the Council to dismiss a number of its officers. The interview lasted over two hours, and at the time of writing it is not known whether the Council have agreed to alter their decision.

An interview with the Salaries Committee at Middlesbrough, took place on February 5 in respect of the dismissal of three officers in the Transport Department. Strong representations were made for sympathetic consideration.

N.E.C. CASUAL VACANCY

Owing to the appointment of Mr. G. Lawson to a post under the Unemployment Assistance Board and the consequent resignation of his membership of the National Executive Council, a casual vacancy in the representation of the Scottish East and North Area on the Council was created. There were two candidates in the election which was held to fill this vacancy, and the result of the voting was as follows :—

W. Wilson, Chief Public Assistance Officer, Fifeshire County Council	747
J. F. Anderson, Chief Assistant Sanitary Inspector, Edinburgh ..	494

Mr. Wilson has, therefore, been declared elected for the remainder of the year 1934-35.

NALGO STAFF ASSOCIATION DANCE

AT CAXTON HALL ON MARCH 5, 1935

Tickets can be obtained from The Honorary Secretary, 24, Abingdon Street, Westminster, S.W.1.

Local Government Service

Editorial and Advertisement Offices, 3 and 4 Clement's Inn, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Telephone: Holborn 2288-2289.

Contributions on topical Local Government problems are invited and will receive careful consideration, but the Editor cannot accept responsibility for the safety of manuscripts submitted for his consideration.

Authoritative local news on matters having more than a purely local interest is welcomed.

Legal and other inquiries relating to Local Government will be answered promptly.

All communications should be addressed to THE EDITOR.

SO THIS IS "INDEPENDENCE"

WHILST these words are being written workmen are bringing out of the depths of the House of Lords the Speaker's stage coach. It is very old—probably 200 years—and it is to be dry-cleaned and made ready for the King's Jubilee celebrations. It looks very romantic, and no doubt when it and similar show pieces appear in the processions to be held in the early part of May, many people, whose emotions will be stirred, will sigh for the "good old days."

The "Good Old Days"

Most of us within the last week or two have destroyed many glamorous pictures of the "good old days," sent to us at Christmas time in the form of calendars and cards. They served their purpose at Christmas, and we never questioned whether they told the whole truth. Stage coaches look very nice on crisp white snow with a background of a warm-looking hotel. Stage coaches can provide quite a jolly ride on an asphalt road—hard, smooth and dustless. But, before we go into raptures, let us look at a pamphlet issued by John Cresset about 1672, from which the following words are only an example of his tirade:

"What advantage is it to man's health to be called out of their beds into these Coaches an hour before day in the morning, to be hurried in them from place to place, till one hour, two, or three within night, insomuch that, after sitting all day in the summertime stifled with heat, and choaked with dust; or in the wintertime, starving and freezing with cold, or choaked with filthy fogs . . . to ride all day with strangers, oftentimes sick, ancient, diseased persons, or young children crying, to whose humours they are obliged to be subject, and many times crippled by the crowd of the boxes and bundles."

And, do not let us overlook the condition of the roads in those days: Lord Chancellor Cowper, when on the Home Circuit, in the spring of 1690, wrote to his wife from Kingston-on-Thames, excusing himself for not having written to her from Horsham, since from that place letters had to be sent six miles to meet the post. He says: "I write to you from this place as soon as I arrive to tell you I have come off without hurt, both in my going and return through Sussex ways, which are bad and ruinous beyond imagination. I vow 'tis a melancholy consideration that mankind will inhabit such a heap of dirt for a poor livelihood. The county is a sink of about fourteen miles broad which receives all the water that falls from two long ranges of hills on both sides of it; and not being furnished with convenient draining is kept moist and soft by the water till the middle of a dry summer, which is only able to make it tolerable to ride for a short time."

New Standards

A little later, another learned pedant, Dr. John Burton, wrote: "Why is it that the oxen, the swine, the women and all other animals are so long-legged in Sussex? It may be from the difficulty of pulling the feet out of so much mud by the strength of the ankle, that the muscles get stretched as it were and the bones lengthened."

So much for "Merrie England!"

No doubt, people were happy in those days, and they may have got quite as much "kick" out of life as we do to-day. But, rightly or wrongly, we are not content with their standards; we have harnessed ourselves to science and machinery; we demand speed; we want every conceivable modernity for domestic, social and recreational purposes, and we expect all to be available at the turn of a handle. Whether this is "progress" or not there can be no turning back.

From all angles comes evidence that governmental control will expand over wider fields of activity; that it will penetrate into production and distribution; that local and regional governmental services will expand. Whether this is wise or not is a good subject for discussion in drawing-rooms, clubs and debating chambers. Those who are for it will bring into their arguments such tangible incidents which present-day movement provides; those who are against it will shudder at the thought and dig up the evidence and conditions of the past, but there are legitimate limits to a discussion, and there is an accepted frontier of decency to advocates of a policy or an idea.

What we particularly object to is where a critic resorts to tactics which, using cricket parlance, can aptly be described as "body-line." Our point is illustrated in an article which appeared in the *Independent* for February 2, on "The City of York Accounts—The Secret of Official Salaries," by Ernest Benn. The policy of the *Independent* is to attack the expansion of government at the expense of private enterprise or individualism. That issue, we admit, is very fine stuff for an argument, and it is not our intention to be drawn into a discussion on matters which can be termed "politics." At the same time, we are concerned with fair play. To pillory, ridicule, or in any way attack the officials of public administration who cannot defend themselves, in order to secure a point, and to print articles which only deal with one side of the case and entirely ignore the other compensating factors, is not cricket.

The article of which we complain is nothing more than an extract of figures from the abstract of the City of York accounts, laying stress upon the increase in expenditure, and particularly emphasising the increasing cost of salaries in the various departments using the years 1913, 1920, and 1934. It actually mentions certain officers by name, and states the amounts of and the dates when increases in salaries were given to them. Any journalist can do that, but why did not the article at the same time show the reasons for those increases? We know how the work of local authorities has increased since 1913, and only the officers can really appreciate the strain of the added responsibilities which have been put on them during the last eighteen years.

"A Foot-note"

The sample of body-line tactics to which we take the greatest exception is contained in the following paragraph:

"By way of a footnote to the salary story, it is interesting to turn to the case of the Recorder of York. The remuneration of this official is, we believe, outside the single discretion of the Finance Committee. In 1913 Mr. H. T. Kemp, K.C., was Recorder at a salary of £136 10s. In 1920 Sir Herbert Nield, K.C., held the position, also at £136 10s. In 1934 it has been thought advisable to omit the name of the Recorder, but his remuneration appears as £150 15s. 11d. The Recorder, as befits a member of the Bar, has evidently refrained from taking part in the scramble for increases which occupies so large a proportion of the thoughts and energies of those who enter the public service."

It is to ignore the true spirit of Christianity and a libel on human nature to assume that it is only under the perpetual stimulant of personal gain that man will do his best work. We have to get away from the notion that progress can only be measured by the sordid yardstick of individual prosperity. The proverbial city man travelling in his limousine, reading a daily newspaper, no more symbolises civilisation than did his forefathers who travelled on all-fours.

PERSONAL

Dr. Irene Tomina Joan Ruxton, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Senior Assistant Schools Medical Officer, Newport, is the first woman president of Newport Branch of N.A.L.G.O. Dr. Ruxton has been connected with the School Medical Service at Newport for fourteen years, and has become the trusted friend of hundreds of children. Some time ago she underwent a serious operation and the children sent flowers regularly to her room at the nursing home.

DR. I. RUXTON

She is a native of Ellon, Aberdeenshire, and the daughter of a farmer. She gained her degree at Aberdeen University, and in 1924 was awarded the Diploma of Public Health at the South Wales and Monmouthshire College of the University of Wales. She has a brother a doctor in London and two of her sisters have graduated M.A.

Dr. Ruxton has been a member of N.A.L.G.O. since she took up her appointment at Newport, and it is said that she is one of the first, if not the first, women in the country to become president of a branch of the Association. Recently she was appointed to a seat on the committee of Newport Medical Society. Among appointments she has held prior to her present position in Newport are Assistant Medical Officer at Sunderland Orthopaedic Centre for Discharged Soldiers and Sailors, and later attached to the War Pensions Hospital, Sunderland; Senior Resident Medical Officer at the Children's Hospital, Sunderland.

Mr. F. A. Bristow, A.I.S.A., of Reigate, has been appointed honorary secretary of the South Eastern District Committee, in place of Mr. H. F. Veness, who has recently retired from the Local Government Service. Mr. Bristow was appointed honorary secretary of the Reigate Branch in April, 1926. He resigned from that position in November, 1930, but was re-appointed in November, 1931, and has only just resigned, owing to his new appointment. He was the county secretary for Surrey from April, 1926, until the office was abolished in December, 1931. He has for some years been a member of the District Committee and was also a member of the advisory committee in connection with the transfer of N.P.L.O.A. members. Mr. Bristow's address is 22 Hilltop Road, Reigate, Surrey.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Branch, Mr. A. B. Dodd, Superintendent Relieving Officer, was unanimously elected to the office of chairman for the ensuing year. Mr. Dodd was for long associated with the former National Poor Law Officers' Association. Elected local correspondent of the Newcastle Branch in 1913 and president of the branch in 1915, he earned the esteem of all members of the poor law service during the year of his presidency of the National Association in 1929. Mr. Dodd was also a joint secretary of the N.P.L.O.A. Northumberland and Durham District Committee from 1917 to 1920, and for a period of ten years until 1930 he filled the office of honorary treasurer to the Newcastle Branch. Since the merger of the poor law and municipal services in 1930, he has given his wholehearted support and energies to the work of N.A.L.G.O. Mr. Dodd is intensely interested in the friendly society movement, having been intimately associated with the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society, and had the honour of being presented to King Edward and Queen Alexandra on the occasion of the official opening of the new offices in Euston Road, London, of that society in 1906. He holds the office of treasurer to this society.

A presentation of a canteen of cutlery was made by the officials and staff of the Radnorshire County Council to Miss Dorothy E. Jones, of the county surveyor's department on the occasion of her marriage. In the absence of the chairman of the branch, Major Jas. A. Paterson, county surveyor, the presentation was made by Dr. J. Miller, the medical officer of health.

The many friends of Dr. A. Penman will join with the Herefordshire County Council staff branch in congratulating him on securing the appointment of medical officer to the Doncaster Rural District Council. Dr. Penman, who is vice-president of the branch, is an assistant county medical officer for Herefordshire and medical officer to the Leominster Town Council, the Leominster and Wigmore Rural, the Bromyard Urban and Rural, and the Kington Urban and Rural Councils. The branch also regret to lose the services of Mr. F. E. Brook, relieving officer and collector, who is entering into partnership with his brothers in Hereford.

LECTURE PROGRAMME FOR THE OXFORD WEEK

THE Summer School for England and Wales this year will be held at Balliol College, Oxford, from July 20 to 27.

Balliol College was founded between 1260 and 1268 by Sir John de Balliol, father of the Scottish king of that name. Its antiquity and the intellectual attainments of its members have made Balliol one of the most notable of the Oxford Colleges. It abounds in historical interest, and those who are privileged to attend the Summer School lectures in such surroundings will find inspiration and will have every reason to be happy Oxonians during their stay at Balliol College.

The School will be opened at dinner on Saturday, July 20, by the Rt. Hon. Sir Hilton Young, G.B.E., D.S.O., D.S.C., M.P., the Minister of Health.

In view of the fact that the Centenary of Local Government will be celebrated this year, the lectures of the 1935 Summer School will be devoted to a survey of the influence of local government on the life of the community.

The lectures will be of an historical character, and will give a general picture of local administration in early communities, of how local government as we now conceive it emerged and the progress of its evolution, leading up to an analysis of the present day influence of local government and its possible future development.

The title of the lectures will be "A Century of Local Government," and the lectures will be divided into three groups as follows :—

FIRST GROUP.

An Historical Survey of Local Government.—Lecture No. 1 : "The Background of Modern Local Government. Lecture No. 2 : "The Justices and the *Ad Hoc* Authorities." Lecture No. 3 : "Modern Local Government."

SECOND GROUP.

The Economic Influence of Local Government.—Lecture No. 4 : "The Incidence and Effect of Rates. Lecture No. 5 : "Local Government and the Distribution of Wealth." Lecture No. 6 : "The Stabilising Influence of Local Government and the Trade Cycle."

THIRD GROUP.

The Social Influence of Local Government.—Lecture No. 7 : "Local Initiative and Powers." Lecture No. 8 : "Economic Planning and the Development of Social Services." Lecture No. 9 : "Local Government and the State."

Each lecture will be of one hour's duration and a seminar or discussion class will be held at the conclusion of each group of lectures.

BALLIOL COLLEGE, WHERE THE SUMMER SCHOOL WILL BE HELD

SCOTTISH NOTES

Stirling and District Branch

Stirling and District Branch annual meeting took place on January 16, when Mr. Alex. Morrison, Town Clerk of Bridge of Allan, presided. The Secretary, Mr. J. Easton Smail, submitted a gratifying report, which showed that during the year about 50 had been added to the membership. Mr. Morrison, on resigning from the presidency, which he has held for many years, was warmly thanked for his good work for the Branch and the Association, and Mr. John McMichael, Town Clerk of Callandar, was appointed to succeed him in the chair. Mr. Hunter, hon. treasurer, who also desired to resign, was thanked for his services, and Mr. Smail was appointed to the combined office of hon. secretary and treasurer.

New Branch

A Branch of the Association for the Burgh of Largs was formed at a meeting held on February 8, at which Mr. Mortimer was present. Mr. Graham, Town Clerk, was appointed President, and Miss Muir, Chamberlain's Dept., hon. secretary.

Salary Cuts

Several applications are pending for the total removal of all the "economy cuts" in salary still imposed. It is expected that we shall see the last of those cuts restored by May next. One of our applications came before Coatbridge Town Council recently, when it was decided to restore the cuts up to £250 and half the cuts on those salaries above £250, and that the total removal of all the cuts be considered in May next. No final decision on our other applications has been made up to the time of writing.

Dumbartonshire Burns Supper

Dumbartonshire Branch held its second annual Burns Supper on January 22, in Clydebank Town Hall. There was a large company, including the Sheriff of the County, the County Clerk, Provost Smart, of Clydebank, the Provost of Cove and Kilcreggan, and several prominent officials of the town and county. Mr. Philip McDevitt, President of the Branch, occupied the chair, and all the usual ceremonies of such a gathering were gone through. "The Immortal Memory" was proposed by Mr. Hugh Begg in an admirable speech. Mr. John A. Fraser, with his caustic humour, proposed the toast of "Our Guests." The Chairman, with admirable brevity, gave the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," and Mr. L. Hill, the General Secretary, wittily replied. The Sheriff of the County proposed "The Lassies" in a most entertaining speech, and Miss A. McLuskie made a happy response.

SOCIAL EVENTS

A dance in aid of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund will be held at Monyhull Colony, Kings Heath, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 9. Members and their friends are cordially invited to attend. Tickets are 2s. 6d., including refreshments.

A staff concert was held at Erdington House, Birmingham, on January 23, and the proceeds of £10 have been forwarded as a donation to the B. and O. Fund.

Burton-upon-Trent Branch held its annual dinner on January 18, under the chairmanship of its president (Mr. Harry Reading). The toast of the Mayor and Corporation was proposed by Mr. W. Wilson, M.B.E. (Gas Engineer) and was responded to by the Mayor (Mr. Alderman Thomas Jenkins, J.P., F.R.I.B.A.) who is also the hon. president of the branch. The annual dance followed.

Loughborough Branch annual dinner was held on February 1, when Mr. W. Granger (Borough Surveyor and Waterworks Engineer) presided, supported by the Mayor of Loughborough and other members of the council. In proposing the toast "N.A.L.G.O.," the mayor paid a warm tribute to the association, and said he regretted the council had not adopted a superannuation scheme. Mr. J. E. N. Davis, divisional secretary, responded. Mr. A. B. Day responded to the toast to the "Visitors," which was proposed by the Town Clerk, Mr. W. S. A. Robinson.

Oldham wants Superannuation

The annual dinner of the Oldham Branch was held on January 25. Mr. G. Keast, J.P., was in the chair. Among others present were Mr. Hamilton Kerr, M.P., Canon Mackintosh, Mr. F. J. Willett (chairman of the National Executive Council), Dr. Keddie (Assistant Medical Officer of Health), Mr. J. F. Richards (General Manager of the Passenger Transport Department), Mr. H. Corser (divisional secretary), Mr. T. Duxbury (former Gas Engineer), and Mr. H. N. Smawfield (hon. secretary). About 180 sat down to dinner, which was followed by a social gathering. Mr. T. Duxbury, proposing the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," said they were still fighting for a superannuation scheme in Oldham, and he thought they would strengthen their claim for superannuation if every official of the Corporation were a member of the branch. It was pleasing to find in the Collins report a recommendation in favour of the adoption of a superannuation scheme. Mr. Willett, responding, said he hoped that before long local governing bodies would be compelled to adopt superannuation schemes for their employees.

The second annual whist drive and dance of the Huddersfield District Branch, held at the Mechanics' Hall, Marsden, was warmly supported by the members. Mr. H. Greenwood, Clerk to the Marsden Council, distributed the prizes and cordially thanked the four members of the Marsden U.D.C., who had presented the prizes for the function.

The annual dinner of the Wath, Bolton and Thurnscoe Branch, held at the Welfare Hall, Goldthorpe, on February 7, was attended by approximately 80 people. Mr. F. C. Brookes, Thurnscoe, presided. The toast of "The Local Authorities," proposed by Mr. J. Ledger Hawksworth, was responded to by Councillor O. Varney, chairman of the Wath-on-Dearne U.D.C. Councillor T. H. Barker, chairman of the Bolton-on-Dearne U.D.C., proposed the toast of "N.A.L.G.O.," which was responded to by Mr. J. B. Swinden, divisional secretary, and Mr. W. Donnan. The toast of "the Visitors," proposed by Mr. G. M. Allemby, was acknowledged by Councillor C. Turner, Chairman of the Thurnscoe U.D.C.

M.P.'s Tribute

As part of the local celebrations of the Local Government Centenary, East Cheshire Branch held a whist drive and dance at Marple. Among those who attended were Mr. J. R. Remer, M.P., Mr. S. Taylor, chairman of the Marple U.D.C.; and Mrs. Taylor. Mr. J. Freeman, Clerk to the U.D.C., formally introduced Mr. Remer to the gathering. Mr. Remer, paying a tribute to local government, remarked that the work done by representatives on local authorities and by officers was frequently underestimated by the public.

An enjoyable dance was arranged by the Hastings Branch on February 1 in the Lower Hall, White Rock Pavilion. Some 200 members and friends were present. An attractive cabaret interlude was presented by the Nalgo Girls, consisting of five members of the Borough Treasurer's staff.

The Mid-Herts Branch held its second annual dinner at Welwyn Garden City, Mr. E. F. Cull, Clerk to the Hatfield R.D.C., presiding.

The first annual whist drive and dance of the Carmarthen Branch was a successful function. Included amongst the company of 400 were Alderman W. D. Davies, chairman of the County Council; Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lloyd, Mayor and Mayoress of Carmarthen; Councillor William Edwards, Mr. Daniel Johns, Clerk to the Carmarthen County Council; Mr. T. W. Wishlade, County Surveyor; Mr. Thomas Davies, County Finance Clerk; Mr. G. L. Ovens, Borough Surveyor; and Mr. Daniel Hopkin, former M.P. for the county. It is anticipated that the B. and O. Fund will benefit by a sum of approximately £25 as a result of this effort.

(*Continued on page 72*)

NALGO APPROVED SOCIETY

The Society which caters for Local Government Officers

Full State Insurance Benefits including . . . .

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AT RANDOM: COMMENTARY ON CURRENT TOPICS

By HYPERION

London's Green Belt.

NOW that the scheme for a green belt round London is before the public eye owing to the recent action of the London County Council in deciding to make grants amounting to £2,000,000 for the preservation of open spaces on the outer fringe of the Metropolis, it is interesting to find that Daniel Defoe in his *Tour through the whole Island of Great Britain*, referred to greater London as embracing:

". . . all that vast Mass of Buildings reaching from Black Wall in the East to Tothill Fields in the West; and extending in unequal Breadth from the Bridge or River in the South to Islington North; and from Peterburgh House in the Bank Side in Westminster to Cavendish Square. . . . We see several Villages formerly standing as it were in the Country and at a great Distance now joyn'd to the Streets by continuous Buildings and more making haste in like Manner; for example, Deptford . . . contains more people than the City of Wells; Islington . . . is joyn'd to London, excepting one small Field."

Later, after referring to the absorption of Newington, Lambeth and Chelsea he asks:

"Whither will this monstrous City extend? And where must a Circumvallation or Communication Line of it be placed?"

If London appeared to Defoe a "monstrous city" in 1726, one can only imagine the feelings of horror with which he would view the sprawling, unplanned mass of buildings which make up the so-called Greater London to-day.

A Vision of the Future

So much for the past—and the lack of foresight which made the sporadic growth of London possible. What about our possible lack of foresight to-day? The following is an amusing extract from Mr. Cecil Lewis's "A Century of Air Progress," which appeared in *The New Statesman and Nation* recently, and which purports to be an article by Our Special Correspondent in *The Times* a hundred years hence.

"The alarming increase in air accidents during the last year is a matter of grave concern to the nation. It bears, curiously enough, a striking resemblance to the consternation expressed daily in these columns almost a century ago as to road accidents. The problem of congestion in the metropolis was then two-dimensional and, as such, capable of simple solution. Overways, underways, arterials, bypasses, traffic lights, and beacons (which, by the way, gave to Central London the nickname of The Red Light Quarter—a compliment to their instigator, Mr. Hore-Belisha) are now among the more picturesque aspects of the Old City, and we are apt to forget that they arose from acute anxiety for the safety of the pedestrian and the orderly progress of the then ubiquitous automobile.

"To-day it is impossible to take a stroll on any of these thousands of miles of disused concrete highways choked with docks and nettles, without a gasp of amazement at the millions of wasted capital they imply. Surely their ultimate fate must have been obvious? Yet, if a careful study of the records of that time is to be trusted, there does not seem to have been one prophet practical enough to say: 'Don't spend too much on your roads, for soon you won't need them.' It is true that in the middle of the twentieth century the roads were, to use a picturesque word of that time, 'lousy' with cars, just as to-day the Pleasure Coastal Levels are midgy with Gyros; but, none the less, such abysmal lack of foresight is inexcusable."

A Bad Beginning

It was their honeymoon and they were being motored away:

He: "Comfortable?"
She: "Yes, darling."
He: "No draught?"
She: "No, darling."
He: "Seat all right?"
She: "Yes, darling."
He: "Got a cushion?"
She: "Yes, darling."
He: "Then let's change places, darling."

(From "Beachcomber's" (J. B. Morton's) "By the Way.")

"Believe It or Not"

I have been reading the omnibus "Believe It or Not," that amazing collection of "Wonders, Miracles, Freaks, Monstrosities and almost impossibilities (the "almost" is good!) written, illustrated and proved by Robert L. Ripley." It is certainly a good half-crownsworth and makes entertaining reading. It is the sort of book I should have revelled in when I was fourteen. This, for example, is the sort of "figure phenomenon" that appeals to the schoolboy's heart:

987654321	× 9	equals	8888888889
,,	× 18	,,	17777777778
,,	× 27	,,	26666666667
,,	× 36	,,	35555555556
,,	× 45	,,	44444444445
,,	× 54	,,	53333333334
,,	× 63	,,	62222222223
,,	× 72	,,	71111111112
,,	× 81	,,	80000000001

(I haven't checked it—I am of a trustful disposition—but you can, if you like!)

Also reproduced in Mr. Ripley's book I found the famous square Palindrome (which I had not seen since I was at school).

ROTAS
OPERA
TENET
AREPO
SATOR

But of equal appeal to the adult intelligence are all kinds of queer facts about half-women, shrunken human heads, horned Kaffirs, wingless birds, double-eyed men and other oddities.

Altogether, a good book for a Sunday afternoon in the winter months!

Probably Apocryphal

There is probably no member of the Cabinet about whom more stories are told than "Jimmy Thomas." The last one I heard about him is probably apocryphal, but it is, I think, worth telling none the less.

The story goes that J. H. Thomas was sitting at a public dinner next to the Chinese Ambassador. During the course of the dinner he noticed that the Ambassador's glass was empty and pointing to it, he inquired, "*You likee more?*" The Ambassador did not reply but went on with his dinner and Thomas, feeling the strain of carrying on conversation in "pigeon" English too great, talked to his neighbour on his other side.

Later in the evening, the Chinese Ambassador was called upon to reply to a toast and, to Mr. Thomas's astonishment, he made a most excellent speech in perfect English. When the speech was over and the applause had died down, the Ambassador turned to Mr. Thomas and said, "*You likee speech?*"

Can you guess the Author?

I give you three guesses as to who wrote each of the following passages. (The adjective "purple" hardly does justice to them!)

1. "And so, I swear, there was this queer magic brooding about Miss Hazlitt's garden in those late April days when life seemed to be deserting her. For the flowers loved her, and were trying to help her. I make no more apologies. I just leave it at that. For flowers know if you love them."

2. "The dull, dreary, dismal doctrine of the Socialist has received its death blow—killed—by the lovelight shining in the eyes of our Prince for his beloved."

Answers:—
1. Beverley Nichols.
2. Lady Houston.

The World of Fashion

Beauty is also achieved for all time in the play of labouring human muscles, in the fruit of brainwork, and in a just institution.

But fashions? Think of women's fashions even of ten years ago without a shudder, if you can. Look over the fashion plates of the last century and behold a panorama of fantastic horrors!

And women of fashion are condemned by the very nature of their lofty social positions to become servants of futility and mannequins of ugliness.

Vanoc II in the *Sunday Referee*.

"We've twenty-four different skin foods for twenty-four different skins," she said, "so we have something for everyone."

* * *

"We all went mad when curls first came in. Down any street in any town in England you could see golden curls, silver curls, russet curls, all sorts and shapes and sizes of curls peeping out from shady hats, or silly, perky little hats, or even from under the beret. They were soft and they were long. *Well, that's all got to be changed.*

* * *

Ears are what matter now, and ears have got to show. You can still have curls, but they must start close to the head and then go travelling upwards until they end in a riot on or near the forehead."

From the "Home Page" in the same issue.

* * *

The Public School Spirit

Really, between the gags of the Western Brothers and the drollery of Mr. Nathaniel Gubbins, the products of our Public Schools have been having a rather bad time lately. Nevertheless, one has only to peruse the Personal Column of *The Times* or the *Morning Post* and read of offers to join in shooting parties for which "Sahibs only need apply," to realise that the Public School spirit dies slowly. But if Mr. Gubbins persists, he may succeed in purging it of some of its more unlikeable attributes. This is one of his latest efforts in that direction:

"Remember old so-and-so?"
"Old so-and-so's fag?"
"Yers."
"Oh, rather."
"Jolly good scout."
"Yers. Where's he now?"
"Out in India or somewhere."
"Really? What doin'?"
"Oh, shootin' somethin'."
"Oh, jolly good show."

Gardening Note

All flower lovers will appreciate the lyrical quality of this description taken from a publication which I have received.

"*The bract,*" it says, "*is adnate to the flower axis, and the very base of the filament is concrescent with the anterior tepal. The conspicuously trigonous scape is at least five millimetres thick and bears a few long fugaceous hairs.*"

In case I have not make myself clear, I may mention that the plant is called Orthothylax, and has at various stages in its career been known as Helmholtzia glaberrima and Philydrum. It comes, among other places, from Tumbulgum, and for the benefit of readers interested in the species I may add that it is to be seen in the herbarium at Kew.

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" 90% " 13/5 " " 11/10 " 25 "
" 100% " 13/5 " " (maximum term)
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24, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W.1

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES

THE annual meeting of Birmingham Branch was held on January 16. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Dr. Hugh T. Kirkland, Mr. F. J. Bunn presided. The report stated that there was a substantial increase in membership, and a satisfactory financial position. Unfortunately, largely owing to the closing of the Marston Green Homes, the amount raised for the B. and O. Fund had decreased. In view of the fact that four widows had received grants totalling £110 in the last year, it was urged that a special effort should be made to increase the contribution to the Fund. The officers of Monyhull Colony continued to give splendid support to the Fund and the thanks of the Association were due to them. Mr. L. Perks, who had been hon. secretary of the branch since its formation in 1930, resigned office, as he had left the service for an appointment under the Unemployment Assistance Board. The branch congratulated Mr. Perks on his appointment, and tributes were paid to him for his invaluable service.

The annual general meeting of Oldbury Branch was held on January 31, when Mr. G. A. Stone, N.E.C., gave an address on the activities of the Association. The annual report recorded satisfaction that a superannuation scheme had been adopted.

At Wolverhampton annual meeting Mr. G. F. Darlow, Deputy Town Clerk, was unanimously elected president. The annual report showed increased membership.

Chesterfield Rural District Council and District Branch held its first annual dinner at the Highfields Hotel, Chesterfield. The chairman of the branch, Mr. H. Kirkland, proposed the toast of "The National Association of Local Government Officers," which was responded to by Mr. A. B. Day, a member of the National Executive Council of the Association. The toast, "Our Guests" was proposed by Mr. J. P. Murray, the hon. secretary of the branch. Mr. W. E. Allen, representing the Chesterfield Municipal Officers Guild, responded.

The inaugural dance of the newly formed Chislehurst and Sidcup Branch was held at Sidcup on February 8. The success of the function promises well for future social events.

The annual meeting and social of the North Devon Branch was held at the Imperial Hotel, Barnstaple, on January 24. Mr. Frank Thomas, D.O.S., was present. Mr. R. J. Ayres, Barnstaple Rural District Council, was elected president of the branch for the ensuing year.

To Honour the President

The annual general meeting of the Cumberland Branch was held at the Town Hall, Maryport, when Mr. W. Scott, Penrith, presided, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. K. Fraser, County Medical Officer of Health. A subcommittee was appointed to co-operate with the Carlisle City Branch in arranging a complimentary dinner to be held on March 22, in honour of Dr. Wotherspoon, president of the National Association, who is a native of Brampton. Dr. K. Fraser was unanimously re-elected president, and Mr. T. L. Williams and Mr. W. A. Elliott was re-elected hon. treasurer and hon. secretary respectively.

The annual report of Bolton and District Branch shows that membership is 679, which compares with 666 for the previous year, but after allowing for transfers, membership has increased by 19. The report details a year of very satisfactory work, every activity showing an increase, and the sports sections have claimed a growing measure of active interest.

The annual meeting of the Blackburn Branch was attended by Mr. C. A. W. Roberts, M.B.E., of the National Executive Council, who emphasised the importance of the younger members of the branch availing themselves of the educational facilities offered by N.A.L.G.O. The following officials were appointed, viz.: The president of the branch (His Worship the Mayor, Ald. C. A. Critchley, J.P.); vice-presidents, all chief officials who are N.A.L.G.O. members; chairman, Mr. C. S. Robinson (Deputy Town Clerk); vice-chairman, Mr. T. E. Richmond; hon. secretary, Mr. A. Astley; hon. treasurer, Mr. G. Leach; and assistant hon. secretary and local correspondent for Nalgo Provident and Approved Societies, Mr. J. Mullineaux.

The Tramways and Motor Omnibus and Electricity Departments Recreation Club of the city of Leicester has recently published the first issue of its journal, *Carbus*, which is a good pot-pourri of news, cartoons and articles, light and serious.

At Your Service—the official journal of the Blackburn Branch—a well-produced bi-monthly publication, has just been promoted from a mimeographed circular to a printed document. The quality of the material seems to be enhanced by this means, or is it that the members are becoming more interested in their magazine?

Mr. R. H. Dyer (Borough Engineer) presided at the annual meeting of the Southend-on-Sea Branch, when the report showed an increase in membership of over 30. The B. and O. donations also showed an increase.

At the annual meeting of the South Wales and Monmouthshire District Committee at Cardiff, the Porthcawl Branch was presented with the District Shield of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. It had been held by the Aberdare Branch for four consecutive years. This shield was presented to the branch again by the chairman of the Porthcawl Urban District Council at the first council meeting in the new year, and in handing the shield to the branch he explained to the council the noble objects of the N.A.L.G.O. Benevolent and Orphan Fund. In reply, Mr. G. Bowman Heselton, secretary of the branch, remarked that the holding of the shield during 1935 was unique, this year being the centenary of local government; and the branch hoped that the council and citizens of Porthcawl would celebrate the occasion in some way, for which purpose they had prepared a list of suggestions.

SOCIAL EVENTS

(*Continued from page 69*)

The annual dinner-ball of the Cambridge Branch, held at the Dorothy Café, increased the membership by nearly 100 per cent. There were 220 people present at the dinner. Mr. S. J. Hurley (President), was in the chair, and he was supported by Mr. E. H. Rhodes, C.B.E. (Assistant Secretary to the Ministry of Health) attending on behalf of Sir Arthur Robinson, G.C.B., C.B.E., who was ill. There were also present the borough member (Lieut. Commander R. L. Tufnell) and Mrs. Tufnell, the vice-chancellor (Mr. J. F. Cameron), the Mayor and Mayoress (Alderman R. Starr and Miss Starr), the Deputy Mayor (Councillor A. A. Spalding), the vice-president (Mr. L. R. Seddon), members of the council and staff, and the staff of the Ouse Catchment Board. The toast of "Local Government" was given by Alderman Raynes who suggested that whilst 1835 could be linked with slum-making, 1935 could be associated with slum-breaking. Mr. E. H. Rhodes, who responded to the toast, agreed with this definition, and referred to the difficulties which a modern elected corporation has to face—the temptation to be guided by political considerations and the existence of too many and too big committees. Mrs. Stevenson proposed the toast of the "Cambridge Branch," to which the President replied. Dr. Laird proposed the health of "The Guests," and the Mayor responded. Dancing and cards were enjoyed after dinner.

A company of 100 attended the annual dinner of the Beckenham (Kent) Branch, held on February 8. The President (Mr. C. Eric Staddon, Clerk of the Council) presided. The speakers included the chairman and vice-chairman of the council (Mr. R. W. Jeff and M. F. Healey), and the Divisional Secretary (Mr. T. M. Kershaw). A whist drive followed. The arrangements were in the hands of Mr. R. K. Bell.

The annual dinner of the Hammersmith Branch was held at the Clarendon Restaurant, Broadway, W.6, on February 1, and proved to be the most successful ever held, the guests present numbering over 200. The Mayor of Hammersmith proposed the toast of the Local Association, coupled with the name of the president (Mr. Stanley Whitehead), who took the chair, and at the same time presented him with the original of a caricature reproduced on the menu cards. After response by the chairman, the company were entertained by the "Sanitas Cousins" (Messrs. Mason and Pottier, of the Public Health Department). The toast of "Ladies and Visitors" was proposed by Mr. Meacock, chairman of the Executive Committee and responded to by Councillor Church, J.P. Dancing was enjoyed until 12.30 a.m. In addition to the Mayor and Mayoress of Hammersmith, who were supported by many of the members of the council and their wives, the guests included the Mayor and Borough Treasurer of Lambeth, the Deputy-Mayor of Acton, and the vice-presidents of the local association.

The Wimbledon Branch will hold a dance at the Public Hall, Wimbledon, on March 2. South-West London members are asked to note that a most enjoyable evening may be secured for the modest sum of 2s. 6d. Dancing is from 7.30 until midnight. These pleasant occasions are often the means of renewing old acquaintanceships among local government officers, all of whom are especially welcomed.

The seventh annual dinner of the Herefordshire Branch was held at the Shirehall on February 2, and was a great success. Between sixty and seventy members were present, including the president (Mr. C. Savidge) and the chief officers of the council. Dr. E. W. Maples (Clerk of the Council) proposed the health of the president and referred to the impending departure of Dr. A. Penman (vice-president) on his appointment as medical officer to the Doncaster Rural District Council. The president gave a brief résumé of the progress of the branch since its inception, and announced that membership to date totalled 152. The dinner was followed by an enjoyable programme of music and entertainment.

The annual dinner and dance of the Peterborough Branch was held at the Dijon Café, when about eighty-five were present. Arrangements were carried out by Mr. G. Moncur (chairman), Messrs. Butler, Crick, Castle, Miss P. Adams and the hon. secretary (Mr. B. Macadam). The function was stated by all present to be one of the most successful events of the season.

The annual dinner of the Portsmouth and district branch of N.A.L.G.O. was held at the Banqueting Room in the Guildhall on January 31.

Mr. E. S. H. Eades (President) was in the chair and in the absence of his wife, through illness, was supported by his daughter, Mrs. F. R. Cogswell. There were also present the Deputy Lord Mayor (Sir Harold Pink, J.P.) and Lady Pink, members of the council and officials of the city. Mr. J. Parkin (City Engineer) proposed the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of Portsmouth," to which the Deputy Lord Mayor responded. Mr. Llewellyn Griffiths, O.B.E. (Town Clerk, Aldershot) submitted "The Centenary of Local Government," and Alderman J. W. Taylor proposed the health of the branch, to which the President replied. Mr. Adrien J. Sharp submitted the toast of the guests, and Mr. A. E. Madgwich (Clerk of Havant and Waterloo U.D.C.) responded. An entertainment was arranged during the evening.

MAKERS OF ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

SOUTHWOOD SMITH; WILLIAM FARR; JOHN SIMON

By HERMAN FINER, D.Sc. Econ. London, Reader in Public Administration, University of London

FIVE great points of English Local Government are, of course, Poor Law, Public Health, Police, Education and Roads. We have already told of the man who initiated principle and practice in relation to the Poor Law and Public Health, namely, Chadwick. In this article we must describe the character and the work of the men who, largely through Chadwick's influence, developed the ideas he had formulated. But it should be remembered that these men were not merely his administrative assistants or imitators, but inventors and creators in their own right also. They are Dr. Southwood Smith, William Farr, and Sir John Simon.

Ingredients of Administration

Now successful and beneficial administration is the product of three qualities. The first is a faith in the human value and service of your activity. The administrator must feel that his efforts are worth while, that he is adding to the welfare of his fellow-men. The greatest services are not done for money reward. The kind of work, the labour, the unsleeping care and anxiety and *devotion*, the anguish when things go wrong—all this, in the case of the great creative administrators, simply cannot be measured in money, and is beyond all monetary payment. There is a point where money reward ceases to have any relevance whatever to the efforts of men. It is the belief in the supreme boon conferred on mankind which sustains us through all our efforts on their behalf—even when they cannot now appreciate what is being done.

The second ingredient of administration is knowledge. That is, knowledge of the technical nature of the particular service to be rendered—for example, how to prevent or cure certain diseases; in the case of education, psychology, the principles of teaching, knowledge of the subject to be taught.

The third quality is administrative capacity, which means the ability to organise and co-ordinate the activities of other men appropriately to your object, together with the power to influence and animate them so that they *move* according to the requirements of the situation.

All of these three qualities are needed in collaboration. They are rarely possessed at the same time in any one man in their most serviceable degree. But all men have all three in some proportion. So that good government will always depend on the co-operation and collective counsel of all concerned, but with leadership going to the stronger personality at one time because he possesses faith, at another because he has the knowledge, at another time, because a man has administrative capacity.

This is simply the lesson of the careers of Southwood Smith, William Farr, Sir John Simon. All of them had the three qualities in high degree; each of them, in the order given, contributed to the making of English Local Government in successive stages of its development. Let us see how they did it, in order to emphasise that what is to be learnt (especially by the younger men who have not yet had time to see these facts in their own experience), is the idea set out above.

Southwood Smith

Thomas Southwood Smith was born in 1788 and died in 1861. He was a Baptist, and was first trained for the church. The nonconformist churches, in fact, were in the latter half of the eighteenth century the centres of spiritual revival and a new gospel of social duty. Southwood Smith, however, could not believe that men could only be saved by pre-determined election; he was certain that men needed salvation, that they must be saved, and that he ought to help the good work—but it would and must be by their own efforts here, while

Dr. HERMAN FINER

they had the power. Hence he was sure of his goal, sure of the need of his own collaboration, benevolent, determined and patient. That was not all. As chief physician at the London Fever Hospital, he had learnt a good deal, and his book, "Treatise on Fever," published in 1830, was a remarkable contribution to public hygiene. Here was first stated the obvious truth, uncomfortable for the landlords and ratepayers of the time, that if the community *wanted*, to root out fever, it must act *preventatively*, that is, deal with the environment of filth and of dark narrow streets, and mean, unventilated houses. In 1833 he acted as a fellow commissioner of Chadwick's to collect information about the employment of children in the factories of the new industrial North. Nothing could have been more calculated to deepen his sympathies or support his hypotheses. In 1837 a terrible fever broke out in London. This gave him, together with Chadwick, and Doctors Kay and Arnott, the opportunity of bringing home to the public his doctrines; and this led to the Health of Towns inquiry, the Health of Towns Bill, and our subsequent Public Health legislation. He was behind the scenes, helping and prompting Chadwick, down to 1854.

William Farr

Meanwhile, William Farr (who was born in 1807 and died in 1883), was making the knowledge of the relationship between the causes and effects of diseases *exact to decimal points*. He was a surgeon at the Shrewsbury infirmary, and being of an inquiring nature, went to the Paris Medical School to press his studies further. At this time two branches of medical science in particular were being cultivated there, the statistical analysis of disease, and "hygiene" (a French word) or *preventive* medicine. This meant, briefly, that general ideas, superficial relationships, were not sufficient. Ideas must be broken up into little pieces and submitted to a most careful, microscopic examination. The great French physician, Louis, said: "When I have worked out an idea, a *priori*, of facts not yet analysed, I always saw, *after* the analysis, that my idea, a *priori*, was false." What a splendid motto for the administrator! Test your facts; look at them from every possible angle; and throw away any idea which does not hold good after experiment and analysis—that is, *a posteriori*. Well, this is what Farr learnt, and he puts the matter in his own way when he says: "If the secret roots of death were once pointed out by *authentic observation*, the human frame might be prolonged to its full ripeness, until it fell as gently as a plant upon the earth."

Farr invented the term "vital statistics," the application of mathematical analysis to human life and its changes and chances—we might almost say "costings" applied to man in health and disease. Now up to 1837 England had no central collection of the figures of births, deaths, and marriages. People had even opposed the census because they believed it was blasphemous to number the people—it might cause God to smite them with a plague! In 1837 through the pressure of Chadwick the General Register Office was established by the National Registration Act. Through Chadwick's influence Farr was made Compiler of Statistics in this office, and held the position till 1880, with such remarkable success that he was honoured all over the world, and even thought of as the Registrar-General, which he was not, since others, supposed to be better managers of men (administrators), held that position. He considered that figures enabled you to discover the causes of epidemics, stimulated inquisitiveness, and caused emulation among local authorities when public comparisons showed that one was better than the other. How well off the world would be if more aspects of its life were exactly *measurable*! Then there would be less dispute about facts. Of course, our interpretations may vary, but the *measured* facts influence us even against our will and prejudices. Say to a person that it is definitely proved that if you spend so much less on your public health arrangements, the death-rate and the sickness will definitely increase by so much per cent: it is like opening the eyes of a blind man. William Farr, by his labour in vital statistics, cured a great deal of social blindness. Florence Nightingale (a great administrative health reformer, by the way, not merely "the lady of the lamp"), writing to him in 1879, said: "May God bless your labours, may He entirely preserve your health, may you be our Registrar General!" But he was then too old to commence as the administrative head.

John Simon

John Simon was born in 1816 and died in 1904. He took the straight road to a medical career; and by the age of 31 was lecturer in Pathology at King's College. In 1848 he was made first Medical Officer of the City of London (£500 a year). His reports to the Commissioners of the Sewers were masterpieces, and already in 1850 he was demonstrating the need for a Ministry of Health, a reform which did not come about until sixty-nine years later! In 1855 he became Medical Officer to the General Board of Health, then when this was abolished, Medical Officer to the Privy Council which took over the central supervision of local authorities; then when the Local Government Board was established in 1871, its chief Medical Officer, the forerunner of Sir Arthur Newsholme and Sir George Newman.

He was *the* administrator; and he had the knowledge; and he had the faith. He speaks of the "Sanitary Cause"; he speaks of the "great enterprise of our time . . . to procure for the life and happiness of the nation the utmost possible Freedom from Interruptions by Disease." Almost his last words are these, and every local government official, as every citizen is involved in them: "Man—the planet's 'paramount creature'—is seen ripening in his ordained development. Beast of prey is not yet all extinct in him, but his organs of higher

(*Continued on page 74*)

A HUNDRED YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

By DR. WILLIAM A. ROBSON, Ph.D., B.Sc., Reader in Administrative Law in the University of London*

A CENTURY ago there was no organised system of local government in this country. Instead, there was an extraordinary array of municipal corporations—open and close—and manorial boroughs, operating under a medley of charters conferring all kinds of rights, privileges and franchises. This obsolete machinery was completely unable to cope with the tremendous new social problems which had arisen as a result of the industrial revolution in the rapidly expanding industrial and commercial centres.

The sweeping and dramatic condemnation of the corporations contained in the report of the Royal Commission on Municipal Corporations led to the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835. This established for the first time a uniform system of government in 178 out of the 246 incorporated towns. It left untouched the unincorporated towns, the counties and—most important of all—the metropolis.

Although this revolutionary measure placed the constitution of the boroughs on a coherent and practical working basis, there was little visible sign of an improvement in public health administration during the next twenty years, and the impetus for sanitary progress came not from the reformed corporations, but from the Poor Law Commission which had been set up by the Poor Law Amendment Act, 1834.

It was the report drafted by Chadwick as secretary to the Poor Law Commission, calling attention to the tremendous burden cast on the community by sickness among the poor and his revelations of the insanitary conditions causing epidemic disease, that led to the Health of Towns Committee in 1840 and to the celebrated reports of the Royal Commission on the Health of Towns of 1843-45. These great state papers exercised a civilising influence on the nation and made people conscious of the horrible conditions in which they were living.

First Public Health Act

The first Public Health Act was passed in 1848 in the face of great opposition on the part of established interests who secured large concessions while the bill was passing through Parliament. A central Board of Health of independent status was set up in London with sufficient power to irritate the local authorities but without effective means of securing the enforcement of an efficient code of hygiene in the localities. Borough councils became the sanitary authority in the corporate towns, whilst elsewhere *ad hoc* boards of health could be set up if the local conditions were exceptionally bad.

In 1871 the Royal Sanitary Commission made its report in which it drew attention to the defects of the existing system. The following year a great public health act was passed and this was further consolidated and extended in 1875. Local boards of health were now set up everywhere, outside the incorporated towns. The *ad hoc* body was, indeed, popular throughout the nineteenth century; school boards, highway boards, boards of guardians were all formed on this principle. But in the last quarter of the nineteenth century they were swept away and replaced by the general or omnibus type of local authority, responsible to the local community not for one particular function but for the whole mass of municipal services. Thus, in 1888, the county councils were established. In 1894 the rural district councils, the Urban district councils and parish councils were set up. In 1929 the last *ad hoc* authority was swept away when the Local Government Act of that year abolished the guardians. Large developments also took place in the organisation of the central government departments concerned with local government.

In the nineteenth century public health administration was mainly concerned with matters relating to the material environment—such as drains, sewers, water supply, the cleansing of highways, nuisances, and so forth. In the twentieth century the centre of gravity has shifted to personal services such as maternity and child welfare; the medical inspection and feeding of school children; the treatment of tuberculosis and venereal disease; national health insurance, etc. Another striking change in public health administration is the emergence or development of services which aim, directly or indirectly, at improving home life—such as housing, town-planning, pensions, gas and electricity supply, the dissemination of knowledge concerning diet, etc. The whole conception of public health has become radically transformed and, to borrow an expression from physics, the world of public health is undoubtedly an expending universe.

A great body of municipal officers has been evolved to administer these and other local government services. If one compares the qualifications, integrity, knowledge and skill of this municipal army of teachers, medical officers, sanitary inspectors, health visitors, tuberculosis specialists, engineers, surveyors, librarians, and their clerical and administrative assistants, with the ill-assorted collection of incompetent, unprofessional and frequently corrupt individuals who administered the corporate property in 1835, one realises that a revolution in personnel has accompanied the revolution in the structure and the functions of local government.

* From the Chadwick Public Lecture, 18th February.

MAKERS OF ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

(*Continued from page* 73)

life are in growth. More and more, as the cycles are trodden, he rises to the religion of mutual helpfulness. Stronger now than ever in the history of the world, and of wider range than ever in that history, thoughts of loyalty to his kind are gaining sway with him. And surely in the years to come, so far forward as man's moral outlook can reach, they who shall be in the front will more and more have to count it sin and shame for themselves, if their souls fail of answering to that high appeal, and they strive not with all their strength to fulfil the claims of that allegiance."

John Simon spanned the period from the commencement of public health administration to 1876, when he left the Local Government Board because he refused to be the mere executive tool of the political heads. For them he was too energetic. He began when the science of public health was hardly more than a simple engineering problem of water supply and drains. With his series of great reports (which are published in two volumes) and his evidence before the Royal Sanitary Commission of 1869-71, he assisted in the establishment of the new central authority, the establishment of urban and rural sanitary districts, health inspectors, and close central control. He also began to apply the implications of the germ theory of disease to health administration, and took special interest in diseases of given occupations. He was on the threshold of the age which, shown the way by such a great woman as Octavia Hill, the inventor and manager of the Housing Trusts (Marylebone), looked towards housing and town planning, slum clearance, and the prevention of overcrowding as the indispensable supplement to the health services in the earlier and narrower sense of the term.

Southwood Smith, Farr, and John Simon—can we give the twentieth century as much as they gave us? They are the kind of men whom we ought never to let down.

NEW NOVELS

In "A Royal Alliance," Carlton Dawe continues his strangely named "Leathermouth" Series, with the hazard-seeking Colonel Gantian as figure-in-chief. The court of Paul, King of Istania is visited and an adventurous time sets in without delay. Gantian discovers just exactly what intuition had led him to suspect. The Istanian capital proves to be a haunt of dangerous intrigue, a den of wolves. Hence the Colonel's duty is to succeed as well in secret service while the guest of a king as under the orders of Scotland Yard. In that respect Gantian achieves everything. There is, need one say it, a lady to be reckoned with and Queen Nardia in such a court cuts a figure of highest significance. Much of real Near East politics comes into this clever "Alliance." (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net.)

* * *

Chief Inspector McLean, the detective hero of many of George Goodchild's stories, has the extraordinary knack of seizing upon those slender clues that may lead to the solution of seemingly baffling mysteries. In "McLean Prevails" (Ward, Lock & Co., 3s. 6d. net) the worthy gentleman from Scotland Yard is again plunged into a series of thrilling adventures. Events move with machine-gun rapidity in this volume. However great the mystery, trust McLean to ferret out the truth, and bring the criminals to justice. An astonishing man, but a very entertaining one to spend an hour or so with, tracking wrongdoers, and defeating the most cunning in battles of wits.

* * *

Set in the frozen fastness of North Canada "The Silver Trail," by Ottwell Binns (Ward, Lock and Co., 3s. 6d.) makes interesting light reading. True the author is apt to introduce characters which, when they have served their purpose mysteriously disappear without explanation, but the encounters with a mad hunter and Jake, the Shaman, provide mild thrills for the omniverous book addict. The characters are somewhat "drawn to pattern," but the book tells the age-old tale of love in a silver setting, backed by the flicker of the Northern Lights. One hoped for a thrill to be provided by Jack Macdermott, "the most experienced of wilderness pilots," but he fades out after a few chapters, and is not heard of again.

* * *

What would be the result and how might it happen if a powerful gang of pirates with super aircraft made organised attack on ill-defended victims? Such a question comes in Paul Trent's latest novel, "David Best, Airman," (Ward, Lock, 7s. 6d. net) and the answer should be simple. But when a young, beautiful, brainy brunette appears on the scene as instigator it makes a difference. So likewise does the entry of David Best, airman, who could not be better named. Then there are such things as treachery and murder—madness to be reckoned with—and love. These in a clash (and the wreckage of a flying machine) can make a great stir and lure most certainly they do.

COST OF LIVING

Below, we give the average monthly percentage increase over the level of July, 1914, in the Cost of Living Index for the past six months: September, 43; October, 43; November, 44; December, 44; January, 43; February, 42; the percentage increases in each of the five groups on which the Index Figure is based are as follows:—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Food	27	25	24
Rent	56	56	56
Clothing ..	90	90	90
Fuel and Light	70	75	75
Other items ..	75	75	70

ATIONAL MINIMUM SALARY SCALES

GRADING AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE FOR INSTITUTIONAL AND NURSING STAFFS

IMPORTANT

These scales and conditions do not apply to unty councils and county boroughs repre- within the Metropolitan Police area.

The grading of officers not included herein d be carried out by local authorities in ltation with representatives of the staffs egard should be paid to :—

The qualifications and responsibilities of the officers;

any recognised national standards of remuneration prevailing for sections of the service; and

special circumstances relating to the geographical position or amenities of the local authorities.

der the larger local authorities it is nised that additional grades will be red.

FEMALE OFFICERS OF INSTITUTIONS

NOT GRADED	Scale of Salary		
	Grade 1 £2 17s. 6d. to £3 2s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.	Grade 2 £2 7s. 6d. to £2 12s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.	Grade 3 £1 17s. 6d. to £2 2s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.
Assistant Matron (To be paid a salary between that of the Matron and Grade I)	Portress Labourmistress Head Attendant Head Children's Attendant Receiving House Charge Attendant Head Seamstress Laundress Kitchen Superintendent Foster Mother	Asst. Labourmistress Asst. Laundress Asst. Foster Mother	Assistant Attendants Assistants to Seamstresses Laundry Checkers

NATIONAL MINIMUM SCALES AND GRADING FOR—
MALE OFFICERS OF INSTITUTIONS

appropriate nd Grade of the .G.O. Scale for istrative Tech- rofessional and erical Staffs	Scale of Salary			
	Grade 1 £3 17s. 6d. to £4 2s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.	Grade 2 £3 7s. 6d. to £3 12s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.	Grade 3 £2 17s. 6d. to £3 2s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.	Grade 4 £2 2s. 6d. to £2 7s. 6d. p.w. by increments of 2s. 6d.
tant Master tant Steward er's and ward's ice Staff keepers	Gate Porter Labourmaster Head Attendant Head Porter Barber Superintendent of Casuals Kitchen Superintendent	Asst. Gate Porter Mortuary Attendant Asst. Labourmaster	Asst. Attendant Hospital Porter Stores Porter Handy Man Assts. to the Superintendent of Casuals Assts. to Labourmaster	Junior Officers

NOTES

The value of emoluments should be: e 1—£2 per week; Grade 2—£2 per week; e 3—£1 10s. per week; Grade 4—£1 5s. veek.

This scale is regarded as applicable to tutions of average size. In small places the should be adapted to meet the special rements.

Resident and rationed officers to be paid in dance with the above rates, less the value e emoluments in accordance with the scale ut above.

The possession of the Institutional Officers' ficate should be recognised by a special ion to the scale.

Where usual, uniform to be supplied, or etary equivalent.

NOTES

1. The value of emoluments should be: Grade 1—£1 10s. per week; Grade 2—£1 7s. 6d. per week; Grade 3—£1 5s. per week.

2. This scale is regarded as applicable to Institutions of average size. In small places the scale should be adapted to meet the special requirements.

3. Resident and Rationed Officers to be paid in accordance with the above rates, less the value of the emoluments in accordance with the scale set out above.

4. Where usual, uniform to be supplied, or monetary equivalent.

ATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

he following programme should be applied affs, other than professional, administrative, nical, and clerical.

INSTITUTIONAL STAFFS

rect Employment.—Every person employed nnection with the work of a local authority appointed and paid by that authority.

ours.—A maximum of 48 hours per week, at least one day off in every seven days.

ertime.—Overtime should be discouraged.

olidays.—A minimum of three weeks with general holidays or equivalent. Where substitute is necessary for an officer on leave the remuneration of such substitute to be paid by the local authority.

Recreation.—Outdoor and indoor recreation facilities should be afforded.

Residence.—Wherever practicable officers should be non-resident.

Off-duty Time.—See "Hours." This should be pre-determined to allow notice of at least a week as far as possible. Officers off duty to be allowed to leave the premises, subject to reasonable regulations as to the hour of return. Attendance at meals adjacent to off-duty time should not be compulsory.

Allowances in lieu of Rations.—Monetary allowances on the basis of actual cash value in lieu of rations to be made to rationed officers whilst on annual leave or duly authorised sick leave.

Superannuation.—Superannuation should apply to all institutional staffs with the benefit of transfer value provisions as contained in the Local Government and Other Officers Superannuation Act of 1922. The value assigned to emoluments for the purposes of superannuation to be the actual ascertained value of such emoluments.

Promotions.—Promotion should be made according to merit and efficiency and not on seniority alone. Vacancies in all posts whenever possible should be filled by promotion from within the service of the authority, but where it is not possible adequately to fill a vacancy by such means the post should be publicly advertised.

Examinations.—The attainment by officers of Certificates and Diplomas should be encouraged and recognised. Facilities should be given for attendance at lectures and classes.

Temporary Staffs.—Except in cases of work of a terminating character, temporary appointments should be limited to one year.

Dismissal.—The right of dismissal should lie only with the local authority or appropriate Committee.

Sickness.—Payment of salaries during sickness should be regarded as a normal condition of employment.

Local Joint Committees.—The establishmen' of Local Joint Committees is recommended so that mutual agreement may be attained in regard to conditions of service.

NOTE.—No officer shall be prejudicially affected by the operation of these conditions of service.

(*Continued on page 77*)

COVENTRY LOOKS AHEAD

A very gratifying report of the past years' work was submitted by the Coventry Branch. Membership is 540. A record contribution was made to the B. and O. Fund, and the committee is looking forward to reaching the £100 mark during the present year. A striking feature of the activity at Coventry has been the Nalgo Provident Society. Since 1930 the branch membership of the society has increased from 49 to 226. Members realise that investment against sickness is a wise policy. It may be recalled that Coventry secured third place in 1931, second place in 1932, and first place in 1933. Now, in connection with the membership competitions for 1934, the branch has again secured first place. Heartiest congratulations, Coventry !

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BIGGER "MUNICIPAL JOURNAL?"

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Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

Incorporated Association of Rating and Valuation Officers.

Various preliminary examinations (including matriculation).

Board of Trade (Inspectors of Weights and Measures and Gas Meters).

Chartered Institute of Secretaries, Incorporated Association of Secretaries and Corporation of Certified Secretaries.

Sanitary Inspectors' Joint Examination Board (both for England and Wales and for Scotland).

Royal Sanitary Institute (Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods, Food Hygiene (A.R.San.I.), and Sanitary Science).

Institution of Municipal and County Engineers (Testamur).

Poor Law Examinations Board (England and Wales).

(a) **Relieving Officers.**
(b) **Institution Officers.**
(c) **Clerical Assistants.**

Poor Law Examinations Board (Scotland).

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STOP PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON OFFICERS' SALARIES!

"NONE will deny that ratepayers' ass ations can fulfil a useful functio writes Clement Danes in THE MUN PAL JOURNAL. "In developing the sense of zenship and the civic spirit they can certa render a valuable service. Local author welcome the sound and unbiassed views of t ratepayers, and these can be most effecti expressed through representative organisati To be of any use, however, criticism mus constructive and must be based upon adeq knowledge. Reports of discussions at som these ratepayers' association meetings whic is my melancholy task to read from time to ti indicate, however, that the primary facto have mentioned is not always borne in min conceive that many of these associations conducted by men who are not unversed in affairs of business. Would they tolerate f moment ill-advised discussion in public on s a routine and personal question as an incr of salary to a valued servant of a compan which they may be shareholders? Would get up petitions in opposition, hold meeting discuss the question, send deputations to board of directors, and even run candidate opposition to retiring directors on suc trivial matter? Of course, they would not; prefer to observe the common decencies courtesies of business life. On such a ques as that to which I have referred they wo have confidence in their elected representat on the board.

Drawing the Line

"Why is it, then, that what is a nor everyday code of conduct, a matter of rou administration and good manners in busi affairs, becomes so often a question of bur public interest, a matter for undignified pu debate, when proposals are made to increase salaries of local government officers? Why is same code of dignified conduct which prev in private affairs not applied by certain r payers' associations in the case of pers questions affecting public officers? Are m bers of local authorities, with a knowledge o the facts, not to be trusted in the same wa shareholders would trust their Board of di tors? There is a limit to the criticism of pu affairs, and the line must surely be drawn w it is a question of discussing matters wh affect the personal interests of the officers servants of local authorities.

"The question has arisen once again minently in a certain case where a town cou decided to increase the salary of a town c by the sum of £50 to £1,000 a year. The posed increase was made a subject of conten at the borough council elections in Novem but the council courageously adhered to t decision, and now a body which claim represent the interests of the ratepayers requested the Minister of Health to interv a course which Sir Hilton Young has very perly declined to take. It is difficult, in impossible, to conceive that the Minister c have adopted any other course than that of s marily rejecting the petition."

Clement Danes proceeds to deal with recommendation of the Royal Commissio this subject, points out how disparaging pub is a deterrent to recruitment, and recalls that Commission expressed the emphatic opi that the publicity given to invidious discuss of personalities may have very detrim effects upon the service.

"The reasons which dictated this re mendation some years ago are equally co to-day," the writer concludes. "The wo local authorities is so important that increasingly necessary to attract to it the b men. But this will not be achieved if the public discussion on the salaries to be pa particular officers. Men who should be di into the public service may refrain from e ing it if they are to be subjected to the disa and indignity of having the question of remuneration bandied about in the m place."

N.A.L.G.O. MOTOR INSURANCE MANSLAUGHTER DEFENCE.

THE forms of private motor-car and motor-cycle insurance policy in general use pay legal charges for the defence of a motorist an accident in respect of which a third party laim is made under the policy also results n a police court prosecution against him for motoring offence. Very few policies, however, re liable for the cost of defending the motorist the accident should give rise to a charge of manslaughter following the death of a third arty.

Until the present time such a position has btained under the N.A.L.G.O. policy, but the ossibility that the close investigation now made f the circumstances of all road accidents ay result in an increase in the number of ases in which a manslaughter charge is made, as rendered a review of this position necessary.

The underwriters of the special N.A.L.G.O. olicy have offered to include an additional enefit in the policy, which will have the effect f defending the assured who may be charged ith manslaughter if the circumstances of the ccident also involve a claim under the third arty section of the policy.

On and after March 1, 1935, the under-vriters will, in these cases, appoint solicitors nd counsel, if requested to do so by the ssured, and pay the whole costs of the defence p to a maximum sum of £250 in any single ear of insurance. No additional premium ill be charged, and the benefit will be limited o the defence of the policy holder personally. he costs of the defence in such charges may un into hundreds of pounds, and there is no ay of recovering such expenses if at the trial transpires that the charge should never have een made.

An endorsement to each policy will be issued ith the next renewal receipt, and the under-vriters are prepared to regard the terms of he endorsement as applying on and after the ate mentioned, i.e. March 1, 1935, during the nterval which may elapse before renewal and onsequently before the formal endorsement is issued, as part of the policy.

This extra benefit is a very valuable addition o the N.A.L.G.O. policy, and those who lready take advantage of it can be assured hat they have secured a contract which gives over as full as it is possible to obtain, combined ith unquestionable security. Those who do ot will, it is hoped, take advantage of the rst opportunity to apply to the official brokers or full particulars.

We have been requested by the official nsurance brokers, Norman Frizzell & Partners, td., to request the collaboration of members luring the months of March and April, which s a very busy period for those engaged in notor insurance.

Members who are insured under the special cheme will be assisting the brokers greatly if hey will be good enough to give instructions or the renewal of their policies at the earliest ossible moment after the receipt of the under-vriters' invitation of renewal.

Time and correspondence will be saved by orwarding to the brokers, when giving renewal nstructions, a cheque for the premium payable.

National Association of Local Government Officers

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(in full) .....

.....

This Coupon may be posted in envelope (unsealed) under one halfpenny stamp.

NATIONAL MINIMUM SALARY SCALES

(*Continued from page 75*)

NATIONAL MINIMUM SCALES AND GRADING FOR—
HOSPITALS—INCLUDING CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS
RESIDENT NURSING STAFF

Average number of beds in daily occupation	Matron and/or Superintendent Nurse	Assistant Matron or Assistant Superintendent Nurse (Annual increment £15)	Home Sister (Annual increment £10)	Night Superintendent (Annual increment £10)	Ward Sister (Annual increment £5)	Staff Nurses After termination of agreement (Annual) increment £5)
Under 25	£150	—	—	—	£85—£120	£65—£80
25—50	£200	£85—£130	—	£85—£125	£85—£120	£65—£80
50—100	£200	£85—£130	—	£85—£125	£85—£120	£65—£80
100—200	£300	£100—£160	£100—£140	£100—£140	£85—£120	£65—£80
200—300	£350	£120—£225	£100—£140	£120—£150	£85—£120	£65—£80
300—500	£400	£140—£245	£110—£150	£120—£150	£85—£120	£65—£80
Above 500	£500	£150—£255	£120—£160	£120—£150	£85—£120	£65—£80

PROBATIONERS.—1st year, £30; 2nd year, £35; 3rd year, £40; 4th year (if probationer has not passed final examination of General Nursing Council), £40.

SISTER TUTORS.—£150 (annual increment £15) to £255, if certificated King's College for Women, or other approved College. £120 (annual increment £15) to £225, if not holding a Special Certificate.

The scale minimum of a staff nurse to be paid on obtaining the final certificate provided that the nurse is performing the duties of that office.

Non-Resident Nursing Staff.—Minimum £250 for fully certificated nurse.

Resident and Non-resident Nursing Staff.—£10 extra salary for every Sister who is required to have a special qualification or who has special responsibility, *e.g.*, Theatre Sister, Assistant Night Superintendent, X-Ray Sister, Maternity Sister, and for training students. £20 extra salary where Sister is required to have University Diploma in nursing. The salaries stated do not include emoluments. In every case uniform to be provided, or monetary equivalent.

MALE NURSES (NON-RESIDENT).—Male nurses (Certificated), minimum of £250. Probationers, 1st year, £134 per annum; 2nd year, £140 per annum; 3rd year, £144 per annum.

MENTAL NURSES (NON-RESIDENT).—Charge nurse, male (Certificated), nurse, male (Certificated), Charge nurse, female (Certificated), and nurse, female (Certificated)—In accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Conciliation Committee of the Mental Hospitals' Association.

NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

Nursing Staffs

Direct Employment.—Every person employed in connection with the work of a local authority to be appointed and paid by that authority.

Hours.—As soon as administrative and economic difficulties can be overcome, a 48-hour week for day and night nurses should be instituted. In the interim the following hours should apply: *Day.*—Maximum of 54 hours. The span of duty on any one day should not exceed 13 hours, of which at least 1½ hours should be allowed for meals, 40 minutes being allocated to mid-day dinner. Not less than 2 hours off duty, independent of meal times, during the span every day, *plus* one free day each week. *Night.*—No nurse, except a night sister engaged as a permanent officer, should be on night duty for more than 3 months in any year. (*a*) Maximum of 56 hours. The span of duty during any one night should not exceed 11 hours, of which at least 1½ hours should be allowed for meals and rest. There should be one free night each week. (*b*) *Alternative* (where it may not be possible to work the arrangement detailed in (*a*): Maximum of 55 hours, with spans of 12 hours including 1 hour for meals and with two free nights per week.

Off-duty Time.—See "Hours." This should be predetermined to allow notice of at least a week as far as possible. Attendance at meals adjacent to off-duty time should not be compulsory. All nurses, including probationers, on day duty should be free to go out between the time they come off duty and bedtime without special permission. All nurses off duty to be allowed to leave the premises subject to reasonable regulations as to the hour of return.

Allowances in lieu of Rations.—Monetary allowances on the basis of actual cash value in lieu of rations to be made to rationed nurses whilst on annual leave or duly authorised sick leave.

Sickness.—Payment of salaries during sickness should be regarded as a normal condition of employment.

Holidays.—A minimum of three weeks with usual general holidays or equivalent. Nurses after five years' service, four weeks.

Recreation.—Outdoor and indoor recreation facilities should be afforded.

Non-resident Posts.—Wherever practicable all trained nurses should be non-resident. All meals, including breakfast and supper, should be supplied to non-resident staff on duty and a fair valuation of the cost thereof be made and taken into account as remuneration in kind.

Resident Posts.—A separate bedroom should be provided for each resident nurse. If a nurse's home is provided, it should be run on informal lines, *e.g.*, as a hostel under a warden.

Duties.—Nurses should not be required to undertake domestic duties not directly concerned with the patient.

Examinations.—The attainment of certificates and diplomas should be encouraged and recognised. Facilities should be given for attendance at lectures and classes.

Dismissal.—The right of dismissal should lie only with the local authority or appropriate Committee.

Superannuation.—Superannuation should apply to all nursing staffs. There should be transfer value provisions for nurses migrating in either direction between employment under local authorities and voluntary hospitals or private nursing. The value assigned to emoluments for the purposes of superannuation to be the actual ascertained value of such emoluments.

Sanatoriums.—Higher pay, greater amenities and longer holidays should be accorded to nurses engaged in sanatoriums owing to the exacting nature of their duties.

Mental Hospitals.—The stretch of work during which no meal is provided in mental hospitals should not be longer than five hours.

Local Joint Committees.—The establishment of Local Joint Committees is recommended so that mutual agreement may be attained in regard to conditions of service.

NOTE.—No officer shall be prejudicially affected by the operation of these conditions of service.

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BLACKPOOL.—Healthiest and most commanding position North Shore; delightful sea view; recommended by bank and government officials. Apartments, 4/6 two persons; Full Board, 9/6.—Boyd, Craiglands, 16 Warley Road. 'Phone 51318.

BLACKPOOL.—Latham and Unsworth, 95 Albert Road. Electric, and running water each bedroom. Board-residence. Mid-day dinner. Terms moderate. Highly recommended. Telephone: Blackpool 860.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Apartments or Board Residence. Homely; no restrictions; three minutes to sea; moderate terms.—Stalker, 45 Carshalton Road.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Mrs. Lowndes, "Whinfield," 13 Knowle Avenue (corner of Uncle Tom's). Half-minute from sea. Good beds. Highly recommended.

BLACKPOOL, N.S.—Private house. Three bedrooms, public or private sitting-room. Bed and breakfast. Five minutes from promenade. Highly recommended.—Mrs. T. T. Sykes, "Birkby," 27 Calder Road, North Shore.

BOURNEMOUTH.—"Belfield." St. Johns Road, Boscombe. Ideal position East Cliff; three minutes pier and shops; central all attractions; separate tables; excellent catering; garages; gas fires; bedrooms. From 2 gns.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Beautifully situated, overlooking sea, Pier and Chine; comfortable; homely; good table; garage. Board Residence from 2½ gns; reduced terms October-June.—Sibley, Boscombe Lodge Private Hotel, Boscombe Spa Road. 'Phone Boscombe 974.

BOURNEMOUTH.—"LUSURIA" Grosvenor Gardens, Boscombe. Comfy Board Residence. Highly Rec.: Ex. Cook. Near Sea, amusements, etc. From 2 gns.—Phone: Boscombe 42D, Mr. & Mrs. H. E. Howes.

BOURNEMOUTH.—**"Eversley,"** Durley Rd. (board-residence). Ideal situation on west cliff. Own grounds. **One minute sea,** near pier, pavilion and all attractions. H. & C. water in bedrooms. Separate tables. Excellent and varied menu. Congenial Company. **ENJOY YOUR NEXT HOLIDAY!** Comfort, cleanliness, and good cooking. **Personally Assured. "Nalgoites"** highly recommend—Mr. and Mrs. Pyne (late of Newark, St. Michael's Road).

BOURNEMOUTH.—Superior accommodation. Board or private apartments. Near Alum Chine. From 45/-. Highly recommended; beach-hut.—"Thorpe Arnold," Groveley Road.

BROADSTAIRS.—Comfortable Apartments or Board. Central; recommended; personal attention; quiet private road; five minutes sea; stamp.—Passmon, Florida, Carlton Avenue.

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NALGO BUILDING SOCIETY

he announcement in last month's issue that Nalgo Building Society is prepared to nce £750,000 to members of N.A.L.G.O. ng 1935, to enable them to purchase ses has created considerable surprise and rest. In spite of widespread publicity it is mated that 50 per cent. of N.A.L.G.O. nbers are unaware that the Nalgo Building ety exists or at least that such advantageous ities are offered for house purchase. The ety assets now exceed £1,250,000, and it is position to assist every member of the ociation who contemplates buying a house. scheme is most comprehensive. The nber who is able to provide out of his own urces *one-third* of the value of a property borrow the remainder at 4½ per cent. If a nber can provide a 10 per cent. deposit society will advance 90 per cent. at 5 per . In either case the repayments can be ad over any period up to twenty-five rs. Many members' savings are more lest and for those the society has a 100 per advance scheme under which, in *approved* s, the whole of the value can be borrowed per cent., repayable over twenty years, ing the member to provide the legal fees.

"Approved" Case

he use of the word "approved" in the ety's announcements has brought forth y requests for an interpretation and this very easily be given. The society's aim is elp a member to buy his house and not to ourage him to assume a liability which he find difficult in discharging. House pur- e facilities are a boon and their value is if they prove a burden. There is no better of converting one's rent into savings than buying a house by means of a mortgage. refore an "approved" case is where a nber does not contemplate buying a house ch is beyond his income, and where the ety's surveyor considers the property is good e for the purchase price. This latter stip- on is of the utmost importance to a member, no member should commit himself to hase a property without first giving the ety an opportunity to have it valued. If, in r to secure an option on a house, it is ssary to make a definite offer a member be well advised to see that the following ds are added to any written offer he makes: "... and subject to my being able to tain an advance of £.... from the Nalgo uilding Society."

Advice

he Special Activities Department at Head- ters is always prepared to advise members their house-purchase problems. If it is venient for them to call at 24 Abingdon et, Westminster or telephone they will find rsonal discussion much more helpful. On other hand enquiries by post will be vered immediately.

he Nalgo Building Society was formed for mutual advantage of investors and bor- ers and the confidence of thousands of nbers has already been firmly established.

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company of over 160 attended the annual ce of the Gillingham Branch at the Pavilion. ong those present were the Mayor and yoress of Gillingham (Councillor and Mrs. P. Parrick), Mr. R. Booth (Town Clerk), ident of the Association, and Mrs. Booth; Hall (Borough Electrical Engineer), chair- n, and Mrs. Hall; Mr. R. C. Jennings rough Treasurer), vice-President, and Mrs. ings; Mr. Andrew Johns (Education Secre-), secretary, and Mrs. Johns; Mr. F. J. rews (Deputy Borough Treasurer), surer; Dr. W. E. Muir (Medical Officer of lth) and Mrs. Muir, and Mr. E. B. Lee wn Clerk of Chatham, and Mrs. Lee. Mr. V. Lamb carried out the duties of M.C. prizes were presented by the Mayoress. proceeds were in aid of the Mayor of ingham's Unemployed Fund.

BRIDGE FORUM

By NEVILLE HOBSON

Triangle Bridge

THERE are few Bridge enthusiasts who cannot recall occasions when the last-minute absence of Smith or his sister has "blewed" the evening. Admittedly, varieties of Bridge for three players have been introduced, but they have usually resulted hitherto in a hybrid brand of Poker-Bridge, at which each player "plunges" in accordance with the dictates of temperament and purse.

As a nation, we must now pay tribute to a great American, whose name (like Washington, Marconi, Carnegie, and others) must be recorded on the scroll of fame as one of the world's benefactors.

George Sturgis Coffin has recently published "Triangle Contract Bridge," which is not only a life-saver for three forlorn players, but is quite a good game in itself, and is perhaps the quickest way for inexperienced players to learn the principles of the ordinary game.

Differences

The main differences between Triangle and Ordinary Contract are as follow :—

(1) The Dealer's partner is always Dummy—regardless of which side scores the final Contract;

(2) The Dummy hand is exposed on the table during bidding as well as during the play;

(3) The order of Bidding is (*a*) Player on left of Dealer; (*b*) Player on right; (*c*) the Dealer—Dummy not bidding at all. This sequence continues until the bidding is closed by two successive passes.

The following results are obtained by the above procedure. First, the advantage of playing Dummy comes to each player in regular rotation, and does not go to the lucky person who holds the best cards. Secondly, there is a greater variety of interesting situations in the play of the hand. When the Dealer is also the Declarer, the play is the same as in ordinary Bridge, and this occurs in about half the cases. When, however, the Declarer is one of the Dealer's opponents, both he and his partner play their own hands closed and the Dealer plays the exposed Dummy in front of him. Thirdly, owing to Dummy's hand being exposed and more facts available during the bidding, the ordinary social player is encouraged to undertake bids which hitherto he had regarded as beyond his powers. The fact also that the opponents have two bids before the Dealer can bid at all enables them to show their strength to each other before the Dealer can pre-empt and cut them off by some extravagant bid.

Rules

Any who may be interested in this variation of Bridge should procure Mr. Coffin's book, which is published at 1 dollar by Bruce Humphreys of Boston, U.S.A., but if there should be any difficulty in procuring it through a local publisher, Messrs. Faber & Faber, 24 Russell Square, London, W.C.1, will probably supply.

The main Rules are briefly as follow :—

1. The highest card takes the deal, the second highest sits on the left of the Dealer and the third on the right.

2. The Dealer arranges Dummy face upwards, and the Dealer's left-hand opponent then bids. The bidding continues as mentioned above until two consecutive passes have been made, except that the Dealer may open the third hand.

3. The lead is made by the player (or Dummy) on the left of the final Declarer.

4. In scoring, the official count is used, but vulnerability and rubber bonuses are eliminated and part scores are not carried forward into the next deal. A bonus of 300 points is awarded for bidding and making game, and a special bonus of 50 points for making a contract of less than game.

5. The Dealer will win or lose double the amount of the others, as he collects Dummy's winnings and pays his losses.

6. After the first hand has been played, the left-hand opponent of the original Dealer then deals, and the player to the right of the original Dealer moves into the vacant chair (though, to obviate moving, it can be arranged for each player to be Dealer three or four times consecutively).

7. Rubbers can be played by using regular scoring, each player being Dealer for one rubber.

The game is undoubtedly worth trying, and a perusal of Mr. Coffin's book is recommended. Mr. Manning-Foster, in a review in the Bridge Magazine last year, emphasises that the game is not a mongrel, but is genuine Contract and affords every opportunity for skill in bidding and in play.

"BEANO" AGAIN!

A "BEANO" is, I believe, a derivative of the word "beanfeast," and this is described in my dictionary as "an employer's annual dinner to workpeople." From the cover of the second edition of "Beano"—that wonderfully humorous magazine devoted to the interests of the Benevolent and Orphan Fund—it would seem that the mace-bearer has attended a beano and that, in addition to swallowing the dinner, he has swallowed the employer and the workpeople!

He does look resplendently replete, and that is why he typifies the magazine, for that also is replete with humorous stories, limericks (the "during-dinner" not "after-dinner" type) and cartoons. And, believe it or not, the whole of the contributions are the work of local government officers.

Frankly, it would be invidious to try to indicate the *pieces de resistance*, for there are so many clever things, such as the still life drawings, so many amusing things, such as the ratepayers' nightmare, and so many uproariously funny yarns, like the "Midnight Hour." In addition, there is a slogan competition, with about sixty-four prizes to choose from. Even the sixty-fourth, which is . . . (all right, Mr. Editor, I'll keep quiet), which is well worth winning, will show you a very handsome profit.

And now for business. "Beano" has been produced by the local conference council at Cheltenham. Its object, to repeat, is to help the Benevolent and Orphan Fund. All that is necessary for you to do now—and this is after months of hard work on the part of other people—is to hand a shilling to your branch secretary, receive from him a copy of the magazine, read, memorise and inwardly digest, and then *enter the competition*. Your branch secretary will do the rest, and the result will be a handsome contribution from your branch to the Benevolent and Orphan Fund.

There are approximately 80,000 members of N.A.L.G.O. Each member should, in addition to buying one for himself, sell one to each of his next-door neighbours. That means that 240,000 copies at least should be sold. Gross income will be £12,000, and the net income to the Fund, based upon the same figure of profit as last year, will be £6,000.

A vociferous vote of thanks (in the usual manner, please!) has been well and truly earned by the honorary editor, Councillor Edward J. Burrow, F.R.G.S. How much time and trouble and thought he has expended on this magazine only he can tell.—J.P.

The Municipal Year Book, 1935. Bigger and Better than Ever.

HOME GARDENING

By WALTER P. WRIGHT

Author of "Roses and Rose Gardens," "Alpine Flowers and Rock Gardens," "The Wright Encyclopædia of Gardening," etc.

IN my February notes I tried to give the forthcoming gardening season a good start by suggesting that stocks of young plants might be raised in the near future with great advantage, mentioning amongst other useful things Antirrhinums, Ageratums, Begonias, Larkspurs, Lobelias, Nemesias, Polyanthuses and Primroses, Scabiouses, Verbenas, Zinnias, Carnations, Geums, Statices, Anemones, Ranunculuses, Golden Gleam and other Nasturtiums, Dahlias, Aquilegias, Godetias, Hollyhocks, Sweet Peas, Salvias, Aubrietias, and Alyssums. It is getting late for sowing some of these now; nevertheless there may be amateurs who for one reason or other cannot make a start before March, and I suggest that they refer back to the issue in question. Much, of course, turns upon the degree of heat available, and late starters must contrive to get as much as possible by one or other of the means suggested in my notes.

In this connection we must bear in mind that heat necessitates subsequent hardening, and avoid using up every square inch of glass for hotbeds; on the contrary, providing that there shall be reserve space without warmth of the hotbed temperature, but cool, and such as to inure the seedlings gradually to open air conditions. Rather than make a mistake in this matter I would not make a point of raising absolutely every article at home, desirable though that is in many respects; but would calculate the space available with and without heat, and if everything to be grown cannot be treated well, would buy some of the necessary stock as boxes of seedlings from reliable florists. Under this plan (and I for one am not in the least ashamed to adopt it) one gets the maximum amount of good stuff with the minimum of disappointment. The florists like early orders, but I am afraid they do not always get them, buyers leaving things to the last moment, which may be later than usual this year, Easter coming as late as it does. Well, it is the old hands among us who know best how to look ahead and thereby protect the interests of the garden.

We must not forget that it may be possible to make some outside sowings of flowers in March, much turning upon the weather and the condition of the soil. There were some very nice frosts in February and doubtless many amateurs who had time and have stiff soil to deal with took advantage of them to get their ground broken up well. Frost can be a great help in this respect. I have perhaps said before, and anyway say now, that it is sound policy to break ground after frost at this time of year finer than in autumn or early winter, because then if cold winds follow they cannot seal up the surface in large clumps. This is a thing which often happens with thoughtless people, who put themselves at the mercy of the late spring weather. Leave the soil in big lumps after frost by all means when the digging is done early, but not when it is done late.

Given a nicely crumbled condition of the soil and a fairly sheltered site, I see no reason why many of the hardy annuals should not be sown in March, although in cold districts, and especially if it has not been practicable to get the soil into nice condition, I would wait till April. I would certainly sow most of the half-hardy annuals under glass this month, subject to the conditions as to heat and hardening referred to above.

Now, about a few special things, taking Gladioli first. I am now able to plant outdoors in March and therefore dispense with the boxing which has had to be resorted to when gardening under colder conditions. The main reason is that I now have a warm subsoil. But I am certainly not going to advise every grower to follow this "short cut." On the contrary, I advise people who have a stiff, cold subsoil to start the corms in boxes of leafmould, putting them in a frame if there is room and if not giving them a sheltered place outdoors. (Do all of us realise, by the way, that we may have two very different climates within the confines of one small garden?)

These remarks apply equally to the large-flowered and the Primulinus sections. People who condemn the Gladiolus on the ground that its beauty is short-lived (I admit there is something in this) perhaps learned a useful lesson last year, namely, that the "Prims"—to use the gardener's term for the second class named—give much more second bloom than their larger cousins. This is a point to remember where space is limited and consequently where it is only practicable to grow a small collection. In such cases, and there must be many, give the Prims preference. I had a fairly large collection of both last year, and where I got very little late successional bloom on the large-flowered I obtained a very nice and very useful lot from the Prims. Moral: grow Prims and do not pull the plants out directly they pass their first blooming.

Dahlias come next. Now is the time to start old stools in heat. Never cover them deeply with soil. One way to avoid this is to select quite shallow boxes—I might almost say the shallower the better. Let the tips of the stools stand right above the rims of the boxes, merely scattering soil between them. Heat and moisture will do the rest. This plan facilitates taking off the young shoots for cuttings as fast as become strong enough—say 2½ to 3 inches l and it may be possible to get a consider succession of sturdy young shoots. As reg seedlings from winter sowings, give eac small pot soon if practicable.

Passing to Zonal Geraniums, I believe t will be a revival this year, if only a small People found last year that a dry season br the old-time favourite into its own and will act upon it, taking their chances of a q different season this year. May I say in connection that a wet season is not necessa bad for getting abundant bloom with Zon If people would dress them over, remo fading trusses fairly frequently, the beds w be quite satisfactory, rain or no rain. Do forget the lovely variety Mrs. Parker whic told about last autumn. With its sil variegated foliage and beautiful rose-p flowers it is a gem. As to present treatm plants which were packed together last aut in boxes should now be given room, prefer in pots if space permits. The point is that t ought to have glass, with protection from sh frosts, for some time yet. Use 5-inch pot room permits.

With respect to Roses, there is still time plant, but the earlier in the month it is d subject to weather conditions, the better. dealt with pruning climbers last month and only say now that dwarfs and standards Hybrid Perpetuals and Hybrid Teas co probably be half-pruned towards the end of month with advantage, qualifying the rem however, by saying that in cold districts n April would be better. What do I mean half-pruning? Shortening long shoots ab half way to the final pruning point, which generally be about a finger's length from old wood. Tea Roses may be pruned a fe night after the other classes, but I do not th this class is much used in these days, Hybrid Teas having preference.

Pansies and Violas have wintered well o doors and the right course now is to give soil round them a good stirring, which encourage them to spread laterally, throw out, as they will, quite a number of tufty s shoots and so making really nice bushy li stuff. For fresh plantings get a supply s and set the plants about a foot apart in a th oughly well-worked bed or border, prefera one into which a mixture of old manure a leafmould has been stirred.

And so to the herbaceous borders, which be forked over with benefit at the first opp tunity following the thorough digging whic hope the ground received in autumn or win With a reasonably mild March, the ear movers will be in growth by the end of month and there could be no better time division and replanting. Always prefer outs portions of a divided stool to inside, which the more likely to have become worn throu soil-exhaustion and flowering.

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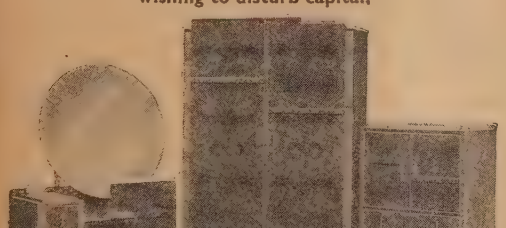

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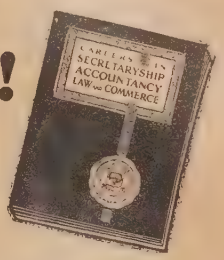

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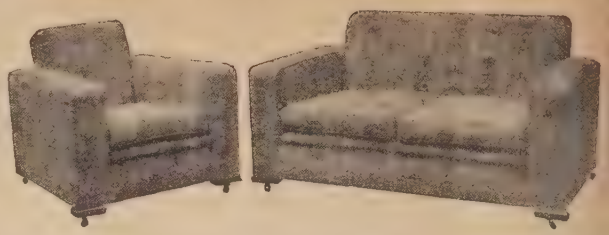

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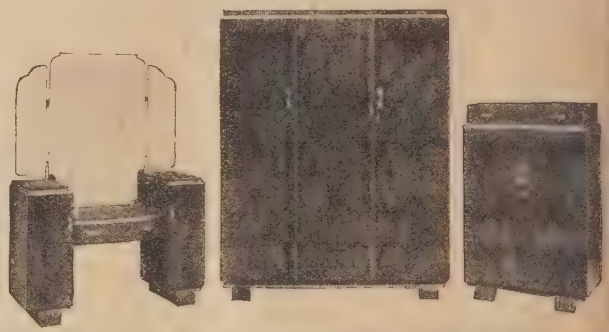

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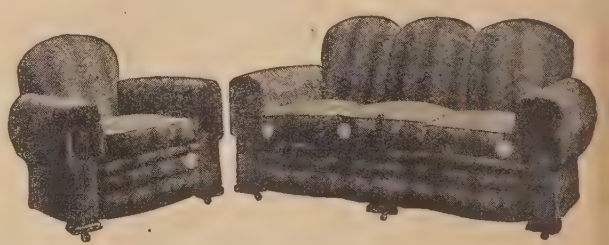

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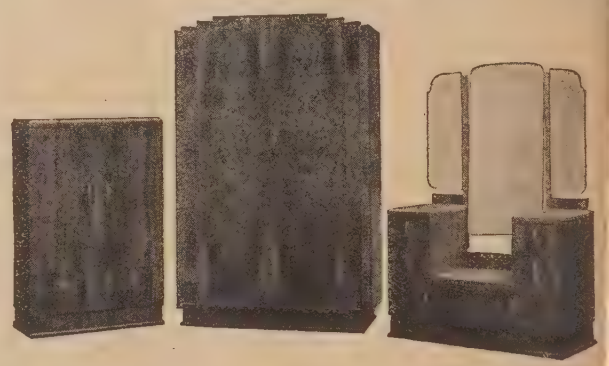

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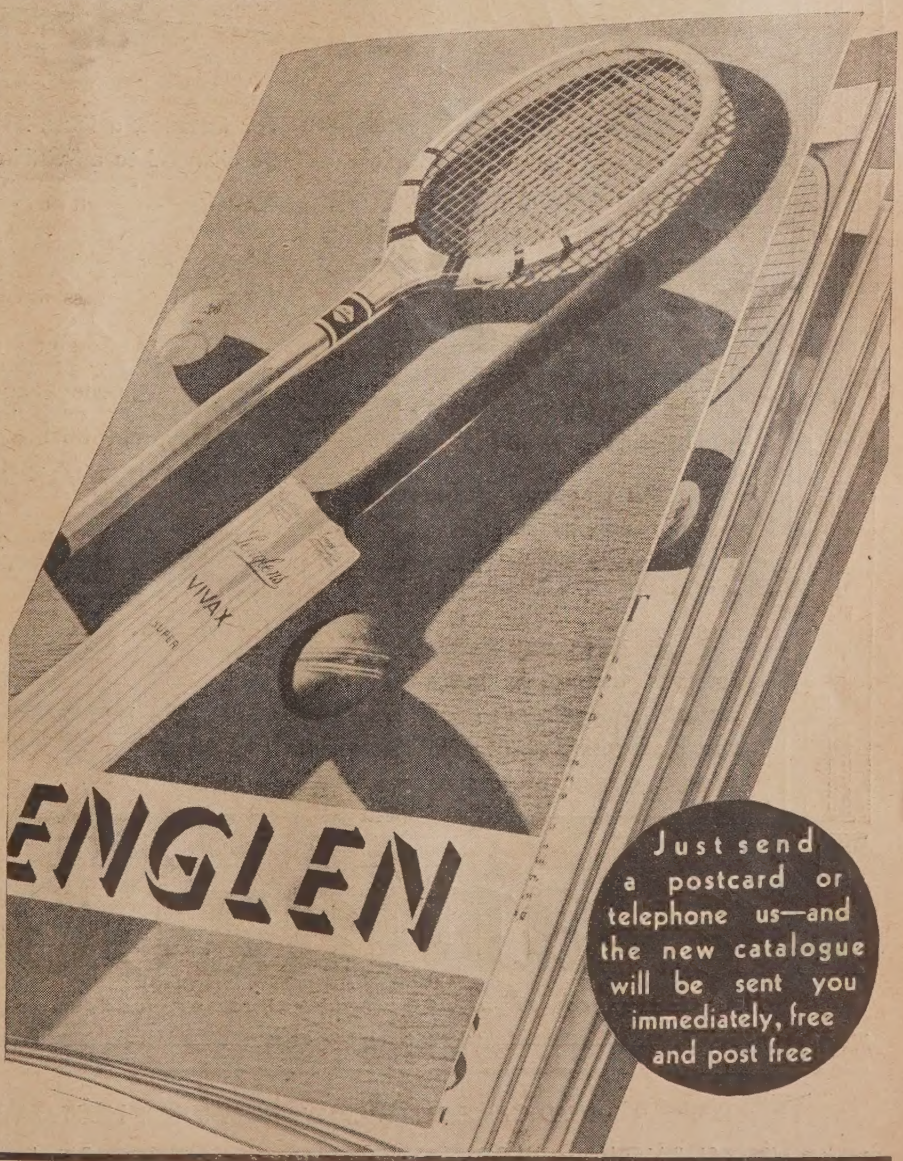

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